

France: Unions strike over layoffs and wages

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

Hundreds of thousands of auto workers, nurses, farmers, and other working people in France have gone on strike, demonstrated, or taken other actions during the past weeks to protest the effects of the economic crisis there.

Most of the giant Renault auto production operation remains shut down. Workers at the Renault plant at Cléon, which produces engines and transmissions for other Renault factories, have been on strike since October 17. They blocked the plant gates to entry by trucks. Renault management then shut down its other plants at Flins, Sandouville, Maubeuge, and at Haren in Belgium. At the Douai plant production slowed to two-thirds of the normal speed.

The Renault workers' actions come in response to years of attrition of the work force. The state-owned auto manufacturer has cut back the numbers employed in its factories from 214,000 in 1983 to 160,000 by the end of 1989. During this period speedup on the line has meant that fewer workers produce the same number of cars.

In September Renault announced a new plan to cut the number of workers by a further 40 percent over the next seven years. This has led to a movement throughout the Renault plants, coupled with demands for higher wages. Wage increases have not kept pace with inflation since 1983. A meeting of management with union leaders at the Le Mans plant, where the proposals for layoffs were being discussed, was interrupted by 3,500 workers. The proposals for immediate layoffs there were dropped.

The bosses at Cléon obtained a court order October 21 that the union allow free access to the factory within the next 24 hours. As of October 28 the plant was surrounded by riot police but they had not moved against the mass pickets.

Day of action

A day of action against unemployment October 24 included shutdowns in the rail, airline, and shipping industries. In response to a call by two union federations — Force Ouvrière (FO, Workers' Force) and the

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Palestinian leaders in first-ever talks with Israeli regime

BY SETH GALINSKY

Palestinians have named their delegates to the upcoming "peace" conference, scheduled to begin October 30 in Madrid, Spain.

All 14 members of the delegation fall within two of the guidelines insisted on by the Israeli government: that all be from Israeli-occupied territories and that none be residents of Jerusalem. Tel Aviv has been forced to back down in practice on its third demand that none of the Palestinians have overt ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Most, if not all of the 14, are supporters of one or another of the various wings of the PLO. The delegation will be headed up by Haidar Abdel-Shafi, a 72-year-old physician who is director of the Red Crescent Society. He was active in the Palestinian Communist Party for many years, according to the *New York Times*. Many members of the delegation are supporters of Al Fatah, the wing of the PLO associated with Yasir Arafat. Others back the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Among the delegates are Zakaria al-Agha, 49, who is head of the Arab Medical

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Striking Renault auto workers protesting at management offices in Cléon, France.

Noted Cuban economist slated to start U.S. tour

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Cuban economist Carlos Tablada is scheduled to begin a one-month tour of the United States November 1. He will speak at 17 universities and colleges around the country, from Los Angeles to Miami. The tour ends December 3.

The coordinator of Tablada's visit is a committee of prominent professors at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Initial work in coordinating the tour had been done by Pathfinder Press.

The Faculty Ad Hoc Committee for Tablada Tour includes well-known academic figures such as University Distinguished Professor Charles Tilly; Professor Eric Hobsbawm; Professor Janet Abu-Lughod, chair of the department of sociology; and Professor Marifeli Pérez-Stable.

Tablada teaches economics at the University of Havana and is the author of the book *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*. Pathfinder publishes the English-language edition of the book.

He will be speaking about the Cuban revolution today and the relevance of the ideas of Ernesto Che Guevara, a leader of the revolution in the early 1960s and one of the foremost Marxists of this century.

A broad range of academic figures and institutions have sponsored campus meetings for the Cuban economist. The dozens of professors who have organized speaking engagements for Tablada around the country were instrumental in securing him a visa to enter the United States.

This was prompted by a desire "to get an account from a Cuban about what is happening there," said Professor Deborah Poole, coordinator of the Faculty Ad Hoc Committee for Tablada Tour. "There is a great deal of interest around the country in how Cuba is dealing with the current crisis both in that country and internationally."

In the spring of last year, close to 3,700 people in more than two dozen cities heard Tablada speak on the situation in Cuba and the relevance of the ideas of Guevara in the world today. For many, especially for hundreds of young people who attended his meetings, it was their first chance to hear and exchange ideas with a resident of Cuba and supporter of the revolution.

There is even greater interest today in finding out the facts about Cuba. Many peo-

ple are discussing the meaning of the crumbling of the Stalinist parties and regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the Soviet military pullout from Cuba, the role of Cuban internationalist volunteers in Africa, and the Cuban people's determination to keep fighting for socialism.

Tablada toured Canada in November 1989. Last fall and winter he spoke in 10 European countries. He also visited 9 countries in Latin America.

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Oliver North, Iran-contra debate show problems facing Washington

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Ongoing revelations surrounding the covert Iran-contra operation carried out in the mid-1980s continue to plague the U.S. rulers today.

The latest controversy arises from a recently published book by Oliver North entitled *Under Fire: An American Story*. Former Lt. Col. North details what many working people have assumed for years, that his activities of secretly selling arms to Iran to fund and arm the mercenary contra army, which was waging a war against the Nicaraguan revolution, were officially sanctioned White House policy.

North states that then president Ronald Reagan "knew everything" even though the president "didn't always know what he knew." George Bush, who was vice president at the time, reviewed "a couple of hundred thousand pages of memoranda" prepared by North detailing the entire contra operation.

The central political thrust of North's book goes beyond who knew about the operation to the character of presidential authority. "I never saw myself as being above the law, nor did I ever intend to do anything illegal," writes North. "I have always believed and still do, that the Boland amendments [barring funds for the contras] did not bar the National Security Council from supporting the contras.... Until Congress resumed its funding for the contras, we fulfilled the mission assigned by the President: to keep the resistance alive."

North published his book at the end of October, a month after all criminal charges

What Duke vote reveals about U.S. politics

BY ESTELLE DeBA

After winning nearly half-a-million votes in the Louisiana primaries, Republican candidate David Duke will be a contender in the November 16 runoff election for governor. The race has drawn national attention because Duke is a former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan and had worked with the National Socialist White People's Party which espouses Nazism.

Since the election results, some in the Republican Party have attempted to distance themselves from Duke. "We do not consider Mr. Duke to be a legitimate representative of the Republican Party," said the chairman of the party's National Committee, Clayton Yeutter.

At the same time, Democratic Party politicians and their supporters are seeking to capitalize on the concerns about Duke's showing in the primary. Democratic National Committee chairman Ronald H. Brown told the press, "Frankly, he's running on the same kind of wedge issues that Jesse Helms and George Bush himself ran on."

Both Democratic and Republican politicians make Duke's past the central issue, not what Duke is doing today.

Duke aggressively defends his Republican status, claiming that what he promotes today is well within the framework of the party. "The rank-and-file Republicans in this country believe the way I believe," he says.

A look at Duke's election campaign reveals that indeed he is in agreement with and proposes to deepen the government assault on working people.

The Duke campaign is directed at the concerns of many people in Louisiana, a state where the economy collapsed with the 1982 bust in oil prices. His campaign is

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under which he was convicted were dropped as a result of a legal technicality. The book was prepared in secret so it wouldn't get into the hands of prosecutors investigating the Iran-contra affair.

North organized the covert operation aiding the contras through the National Security Council located in the White House. It aimed to punish Nicaragua's workers and peasants through a bloody and economically costly war of attrition and, if possible, overthrow the revolution.

Iran-contra represents a gigantic political problem that continues to plague the U.S. capitalist rulers today: how to restore working people's confidence in the government while Washington carries out policies and employs methods that cannot be openly proclaimed or defended. The rulers' problem stems from the fact that since the Vietnam War it has become clearer to larger layers of working people that stated government policies increasingly diverge from their real policies.

During 1987 congressional hearings that investigated the covert contra supply operation, North pointed to the dilemma the capitalist rulers faced. "The exposure of the operation would have caused it to be terminated," he stated. "I'm talking about the political debate that would have occurred here in this country."

Political debate, discussion, and discontent among working people over these secretive and unpopular government policies is

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Korean student demands U.S. troops out

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

NEW YORK — "I came to the United States to bring international attention to the 40 million South Korean people's fervent hope for peace and reunification," said Lee Doo Wan, a student leader from South Korea.

Lee spoke at an October 7 press conference here as part of a tour to protest U.S. and United Nations intervention in Korea. Lee is a representative of Chundaehyup (National Council of College Student Representatives), the largest student organization in South Korea.

Following the press conference, Lee went to Washington, D.C., where he staged a three-day hunger strike at the White House, calling for the removal of U.S. troops from Korea, the signing of a peace treaty in Korea, the creation of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, and for reunification of the country. He also spoke at a rally in support of Puerto Rican independence there October 12.

Lee's visit corresponded with the 46th General Assembly of the United Nations at which North and South Korea were both voted into membership. Lee said that the UN had inflicted tremendous suffering on the Korean people by its intervention that became the Korean War. Voting for two separate Korean seats in the UN was another blow to the people of the country.

At the end of World War II the Korean peninsula was divided into two countries by agreement of Washington and Moscow. The UN-sanctioned Korean War carried out by the United States between 1950 and 1953 reinforced the division, leaving a nuclear-armed U.S. occupation army in the south numbering 40,000 troops. Since the division of the country, neither of the Koreas has been admitted to the UN. The North Korean government has called for a single seat at the UN for Korea, as part of its campaign for reunification of the country. Both the Chinese and Soviet governments recently dropped their opposition in the UN Security Council to the two-seat proposal. The South Korean regime then applied for UN membership, and North Korea applied as well.

At the press conference Lee read Chundaehyup's demands to the United Nations.

These include pressing for the removal of all U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from Korea and a call for the UN to sign a peace treaty and support the adoption of a non-aggression declaration by the two governments in Korea.

Lee is the first official representative of Chundaehyup to come to the United States. The organization, founded in 1987, was forged out of the massive resistance mounted in June of that year against the country's dictator Chun Du Hwan.

Some 90,000 students from 59 campuses participated in the June 1987 protests. The students were joined by workers, housewives, vendors, taxi drivers, and many professionals as they pressed their demands for democratic elections, a new constitution, and an end to the U.S.-backed dictatorship.

Chundaehyup is a coalition of the various student organizations that participate in the struggle for "self-determination, democracy and the reunification of Korea." It represents 1 million students.

In 1989, Chundaehyup defied criminal laws in South Korea that prohibit travel to the North by sending a representative, Im Su Kyung, to the 13th World Festival of Students and Youth in Pyongyang, North Korea. On her return Im was given a five-year jail sentence.

When asked about the current state of the

student movement in South Korea, Lee explained that they have shifted their focus to the issue of disarmament as the most important step toward their goal of reunification. He said millions of Korean youth — in not only the North and South, but in other countries — participated in a petition campaign calling for a nuclear-free zone in Korea that demands the U.S. troops and weapons be removed as the first step.

Demonstrations also continue against repressive actions on the part of the current regime. Two thousand students protested September 19 at Seoul National University against the police shooting that resulted in the death of Han Kuk Won, a student at SNU.

Supreme Court hears Doherty asylum case

BY MARC LICHTMAN

NEW YORK — On October 15, the same day the U.S. Senate voted to confirm Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, 100 people rallied here to call for political asylum for Joe Doherty. Doherty's case was heard before the U.S. Supreme Court the following day.

The rally was addressed on the steps of City Hall by Mayor David Dinkins and by Doherty's mother Maureen. The event was part of a motorcade that started in Boston and ended at the Supreme Court building in Washington, with rallies along the way in Hartford, New York, and Philadelphia.

Doherty, a 36-year-old Irish republican, has been in prison in the United States since June 1983, despite the fact that he has never been charged with committing any crime here. Doherty faces a life sentence in the British-occupied north of Ireland for his role in an armed encounter between the Irish Republican Army and an elite British unit, in which a British officer was killed. Sentenced in absentia after escaping from prison, Doherty came to the United States in 1981. He worked in construction and then as a bartender until being arrested on an immigration warrant.

In 1984, Doherty and his attorneys defeated

an attempt to extradite him to Northern Ireland. U.S. district court judge John Sprizzo ruled that since the offenses Doherty was charged with were political rather than criminal, he could not be extradited under the then-existing treaty between the United States and Britain. Sprizzo's decision was upheld against two government appeals. In 1986 this extradition was amended by the U.S. Senate to eliminate the political offense exception in cases where violence is involved.

The U.S. government has continued to try to extradite Doherty to Northern Ireland or have him deported directly to Britain. The government has argued that Doherty's deportation to a different country would be "prejudicial to the interests of the United States," by which they mean the close relationship between U.S. and British imperialism.

The U.S. Supreme Court will now consider the government's appeal of a 1990 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that gave Doherty the right to apply for political asylum in the United States. His attorneys Mary Pike and

Steve Somerstein are joined by numerous friend of the court briefs: 132 members of the U.S. Congress, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, and others.

In 1989, a resolution supporting Doherty's right to bail and to political asylum was passed by the national convention of the 14-million-member AFL-CIO.

In one indication of the political importance of this case, the *Wall Street Journal* carried a front-page article reviewing Doherty's eight-year fight.

If the Supreme Court rules against him, Doherty will be immediately deported to serve a life sentence in Long Kesh prison in Northern Ireland. If he wins, Doherty will still be in federal prison in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. His lawyers will then appeal his bail denial to the Supreme Court and begin his application for political asylum, which could take years.

Millions of U.S. children go hungry

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Millions of children in working-class families go hungry in the United States. This is the conclusion reached by a recent study of the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project. This is explained in a summary issued by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C.

The results of the study were reported in a front-page article in the July-August issue of *Action*, the national magazine of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

An estimated 5.5 million children, or one out of every eight children under age 12, are hungry. An additional 6 million children in the same age group are at "risk of hunger because of food shortage problems," the report states. These 11.5 million children represent 25 percent of youth under 12 living in the United States.

Millions do not eat regularly

"In a nation whose wealth and resources are the envy of the world," says the summary, "literally millions of children do not get enough to eat on a regular basis."

This results in children who go hungry being two to three times more likely than those from non-hungry low-income families to suffer from individual health problems,

such as unwanted weight loss, fatigue, irritability, headaches, and inability to concentrate. They are twice as likely to suffer from ear infections, for example, and twice as likely to have frequent colds.

The study found that families that experienced hunger suffered from it for an average of seven days per month. It shows that many working families, including those with a member employed full-time, cannot escape hunger.

The survey reveals that "low-income families are quite resourceful in marshalling public and private food assistance yet often cannot meet their families' needs. . . . When hunger hits a family, the parents are usually the first to do without food so their children can eat."

Low-income households spend a much higher proportion of their income on housing and utilities than higher income families. The share of income spent on shelter averaged more than 60 percent for those with incomes below the poverty level. The "portion of income spent on shelter was three times greater for the poor" in these surveys than for the "typical" U.S. family.

While "hungry households" spend almost a third of their monthly income on food, they are able to spend an average of only 68 cents per person per meal, states the FRAC summary.

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Dumile Feni: antiapartheid fighter

ANC-organized meeting celebrates life of renowned South African artist

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

One of South Africa's most renowned artists, Mhlaba Zwelidumile Mgxaji Feni, died in New York City on October 16, 1991 at the age of 52.

Dumile, as he was popularly known to many, was a veteran fighter against apartheid, a member of the African National Congress, and "one of Africa's greatest contemporary artists," according to art critic E.J. DeJager, writing in *Contemporary Sculpture in South Africa*.

In 1988 Dumile painted the portrait of Nelson Mandela that appears on the six-story Pathfinder mural located in lower Manhattan.

"Dumile was model and inspiration to a generation of black artists in South Africa," wrote Pat Williams in an October 22 obituary appearing in the London *Independent*, a major British daily. "He was without doubt the best draughtsman South Africa produced among a huge crop of talented black artists."

"His superb drawings, filled with people, had an extraordinary economy of line, and reflected all the contradictions of his own life . . . His sculptures — heads and figures — were monumental. They were people scarred, but still upright . . . In the South African context, they made a powerful statement," explained Williams.

On October 26, some 180 friends and supporters attended a memorial meeting to pay tribute to this extraordinary artist and revolutionary fighter against apartheid. The event was organized by the African National Congress and held at the Schomburg Center in Harlem.

"Dumile listened and responded to the call of the ANC to isolate the regime of South Africa," stated Madoda Hlatshwayo, administrative assistant to the ANC mission in the United States. "His work as an artist and his work as a political activist was not contradictory. He was a loyal and disciplined member of the ANC."

The program included talks by several friends who had worked with Dumile through the years. Musical tributes were presented by several artists including Abdullah Ibrahim and Sathima Beja Benjamin.

Mel Edwards, one of the artists that worked with Dumile, explained how they first met at antiapartheid cultural events. Edwards pointed to the portrait of Mandela painted by Dumile on the Pathfinder Mural as "an important contribution to the struggle."

Among the messages read to the meeting was one from Charlayne Hunter-Gault, national correspondent for the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour program. She pointed out how Dumile "provided sustaining support for the idea that no system, no matter how brutal or repressive can abolish the creative will of its people."

Friends of Pathfinder Mural to open center in honor of Dumile Feni

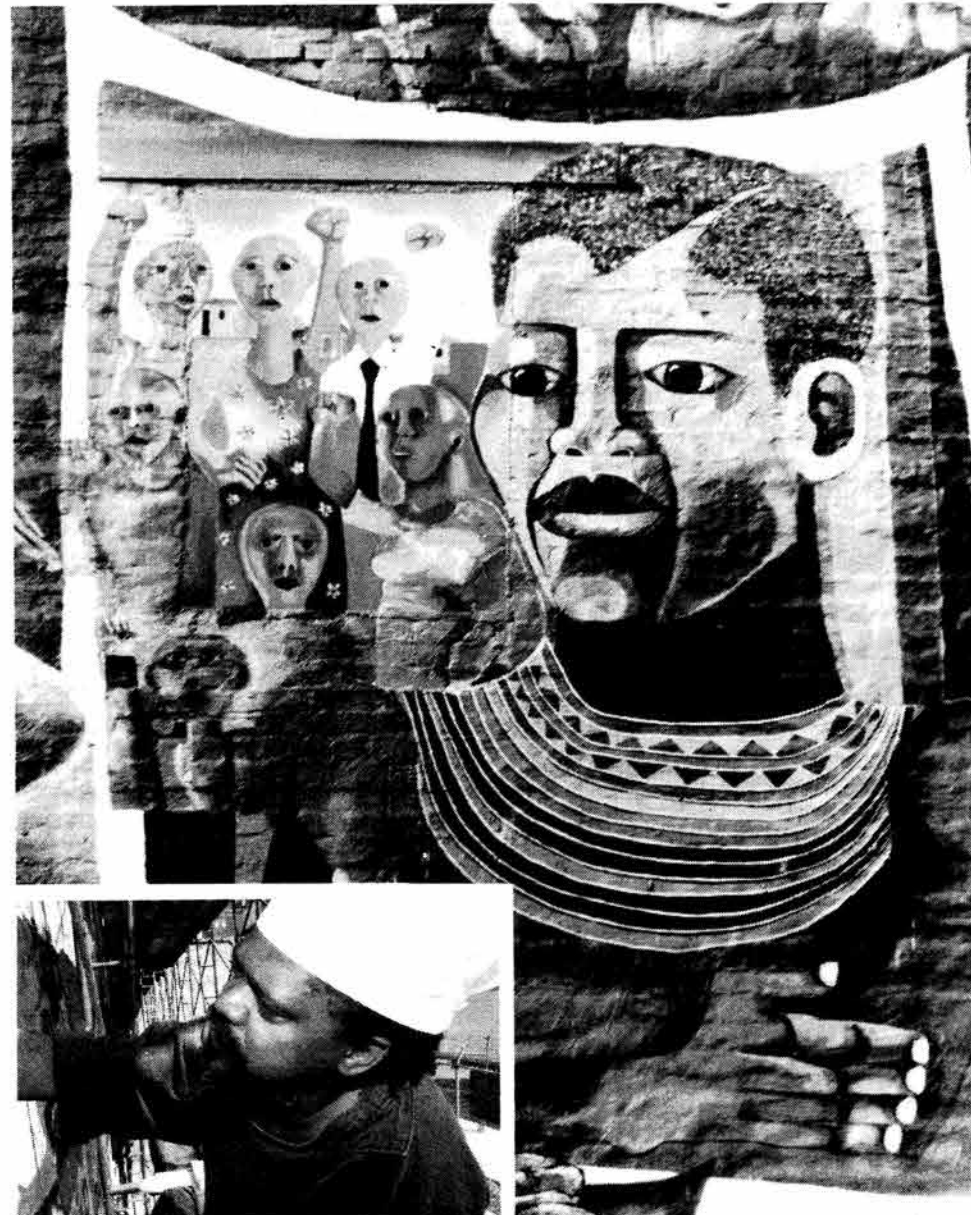
BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Friends of the Pathfinder Mural have announced plans to open the Dumile Feni Memorial-Pathfinder Mural Center in December.

The center, located adjacent to the mural, will provide visitors an opportunity to purchase mural posters, postcards, and photographs and obtain information about books published by Pathfinder. It will include displays reviewing how the mural was made and will exhibit some of Dumile's artwork.

"Dumile worked tirelessly from the earliest days of the Pathfinder Mural Project to create one of the finest portraits in the mural, that of African National Congress president Nelson Mandela," stated Meryl Lynn Farber, executive director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural. "This portrait has become synonymous with the Pathfinder Mural and is known worldwide."

"Dumile also painted a scene depicting



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Dumile Feni at work on Pathfinder Mural portrait of Nelson Mandela in 1988

In a message sent to the ANC, Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, wrote, "Dumile found his humanity above all through joining in the revolutionary struggle to bring down the inhuman system of apartheid. Like many who decided to fight rather than submit, he was exiled from the land of his birth. But his commitment to the battle for a nonracial, democratic South African republic led him to actively identify with and become involved in fights to defend democratic rights and liberties in each country in which he found himself living."

"Through his art he gave expression to and drew beauty from the suffering, struggle, and

the Soweto uprising and came back to the mural to participate with a team of artists in the restoration work after the mural had been attacked by vandals," said Farber.

In an interview, Farber recalled the invaluable role Dumile played throughout the entire project. "He did media interviews, spoke at house meetings, and toured several cities to promote and help raise funds for the mural," she stated.

Dumile was making plans to come back for some touch-up work on the Mandela portrait shortly before he died.

When the mural was first vandalized in December 1989, Dumile was quick to respond. "Art knows no boundaries. Art has a universal language all its own. This has been demonstrated by the participants in the making of the Pathfinder Mural — where artists from all over the world come together to celebrate the spirit of freedom," he wrote in a statement condemning this attack.

Friends of the Pathfinder Mural have launched a \$12,000 international fund drive to cover the expenses involved in opening the new center. Plans are also in the works to produce a key that will identify the more than 150 portraits of revolutionary fighters painted on the mural.

Contributions can be sent to Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

aspiration of those fighting apartheid and of the oppressed and exploited world over," stated Barnes.

Cultural apartheid

Dumile Feni was born in 1939 in Cape-town but grew up in Johannesburg, South

Africa. As a child he was inspired by cave paintings created by his African ancestors. He began doing watercolor paintings and soon took up sculpture as his main interest.

Dumile's art is a powerful commentary on the life of Blacks in the townships. He is regarded as one of the founders of the school of township art, an indigenous art movement of South Africa's Blacks.

"I began to fight cultural apartheid in the only way I know how," stated Dumile in a September 1988 interview with the *Militant*. He organized cultural shows where Black and white jazz musicians performed, poets read their works, and supporters of the ANC were able to express their views. The South African regime began to harass Dumile, in particular for his sculptures and paintings of antiapartheid leaders. They attempted to stop the shows by arresting Dumile many times, throwing him in prison for a total of five years.

"I was never charged with a serious offense, and often I was not charged with anything at all," explained Dumile. "I would serve three months one time, six months another. Once I was in prison for 15 months."

Dumile was forced into hiding and then into exile. In 1968 he left South Africa on an exit visa, settling in London for the next 11 years. He left his wife and two daughters behind, never again to return.

In 1978, Dumile came to the United States, working on a mural for the University of California and then settling in New York City.

Dumile's art has been exhibited in festivals around the world. His works are part of collections in a number of galleries and museums. One of his proudest achievements during the last few years was his portrait of Nelson Mandela painted on the Pathfinder Mural.

In a letter to the meeting from the *Militant*, editor Greg McCartan said that for "young people and workers coming into political life and action, learning the facts of Dumile's political contributions will be an inspiration and education." He said the *Militant* was proud to have the South African's drawing featured in the "Behind Prison Walls" column in the paper.

Native Americans protest 'the chop' at World Series

BY GREG McCARTAN

Leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM) organized protest events at World Series baseball games between the Atlanta Braves and the Minnesota Twins to explain how the use of the "tomahawk chop" degrades Native Americans.

At the games, Braves' fans, some dressed up in Indian headdress, would stand up with plastic tomahawks, chopping them in the air when the team made a good play.

"We were asked by parents, students, and others across the country to address this issue," said AIM National Council member Bill Means in a phone interview from Minneapolis.

"This is part of a long struggle," he said. "Since Columbus we have been battling these caricatures and racist stereotypes of Native Americans."

Means said AIM asked Braves owner Ted Turner to change the name of the ball club and requested fans stop the chop. "It gives the image that Indians were and are aggressive by nature and makes it seem like that is what Indians did to their enemies."

Other ball clubs have changed their names after Native and student groups objected that the names and demeaning and degrading mascots helped perpetuate a racist stereotype of American Indians, Means said.

In the debate surrounding the chop some have tried to argue that Native Americans shouldn't take offense. The *Wall Street Journal*, while admitting that "one should respect their feelings," questioned where "defining new social offenses" would lead.

"Animal rights activists stand ready to protect the beasts . . . and the colors white, black, red, yellow and brown probably are off-limits too," the October 25 column said.

Means said he had been asked why AIM, with all the pressing social problems facing Native Americans, would take up such a "trivial" issue.

"If people can't understand a simple issue like respect, how can they understand larger issues confronting us," he said.

"If the team were called the Atlanta Negroes," Means said, "and fans were given spears to pretend they were throwing every time the team did good, Black people would never stand for that."

The civil rights movement made such a portrayal of Blacks unacceptable to large sections of the population, he pointed out. The Braves games are "carried out in the shadow of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s grave," he said. "What people have to understand is that the civil rights movement was not just a Black and white issue."

The *Wall Street Journal*, he said, "trivializes the issue. It makes it seem as if all of a sudden it is the Indian people who are calling for everything to be politically correct."

Means said he is not opposed in principle to a team being named after an Indian tribe. But the "first step is to consult with the Indian people. If they are going to name it the Seminoles, then the literature and the symbols of the team have to accurately portray the Seminoles. This doesn't include making a caricature of the Seminoles."

The portrayal of Native Americans "doesn't have to be negative," he said. If they are going to keep the name then they must publish literature that describes the history and true culture of Indians in the area. Turner must do that, Means said, "or change the name of the team."

Labor News in the 'Militant'

For weekly eyewitness reports on working-class struggles from the mines of South Africa to the mills and factories of North America read the *Militant*. See page 2 for subscription information.



New Democratic Party wins two more elections in Canada

Canada's New Democratic Party won elections in the British Columbia and Saskatchewan provinces in balloting October 17 and 21. Ontario, the country's most populous province, has had an NDP government for 13 months.

The NDP has official backing from unions in Canada, although, as with labor parties in Britain, New Zealand, and elsewhere, it accepts the framework of bourgeois politics and the maintenance of the capitalist system.

The NDP's electoral successes have been propelled by the effects of a stagnant economy on workers and working farmers. Many see the need for a political weapon to fight the Conservative government in Ottawa and the employers' assaults on the unions. The federal government and a number of provincial governments have imposed wage controls on government employees.

Just prior to the elections Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney authorized an \$800 million emergency farm package to try to salvage the election prospects for Saskatchewan premier Grant Devine. Even so Devine was voted out.

New protests erupt in Zaire as new prime minister is dismissed

Troops loyal to Zairian president Mobutu Sese Seko fired on a demonstration of 15,000 in an attempt to quell protests following the dismissal of the country's newly appointed prime minister October 20.

The autocratic ruler dismissed Etienne Tshisekedi, a leader of the official opposition, after Tshisekedi refused to sign an oath of loyalty to the president. Mobutu had allowed the opposition to participate in a new government after widespread protests by troops and civilians one month ago. Some 250 people were killed at the time, and French and Belgian troops were flown to the country to help stabilize the shaky regime.

Protests against the ousting of Tshisekedi were centered in the copper mining region, located in the southern part of the country. Working people joined soldiers in actions in the towns of Mbuji-Mayi, Kisangani, Kolwezi, and Likasi.

Mobutu has held power for 26 years.

Japanese government ends South Africa sanctions

Tokyo announced October 22 it was lifting most of its trade sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Government spokesperson Misoji Sakamoto said the Japanese government considered the movement away from apartheid "irreversible," and that ending the sanctions would help Blacks by "restoring growth to South Africa's economy."

After many governments imposed sanctions in the 1980s, Japan became South Africa's largest trading partner, with some \$4 billion a year in imports and exports.

Japanese firms also took advantage of the withdrawal of imperialist competitors from some sectors of the economy, capturing large shares of the automobile and mainframe computer market.

Turkish gov't attacks Kurds, ruling party defeated at polls

Turkish soldiers and plainclothes cops beat and fired at Kurdish demonstrators during a rally in support of the People's Labor Party October 18.

Afterwards, when several hundred protesters marched into a nearby town, cops with wooden poles "rushed forward and swung the poles into the sides of the marchers with dull thuds," the *New York Times* reported.

Protesters waved the outlawed Kurdish flag and chanted revolutionary slogans during the demonstration.

This latest incident came two days before a general election in which the ruling Motherland Party of President Turgut Ozal lost to the True Path Party. Ozal is in the second year of his seven-year term and has said he will not resign.

During the campaign, True Path leaders attacked Ozal for not being tough enough in repressing the Kurdish protests and insurgency.

Gov't stalls on jobless benefits while economic crisis grows

1991 will be auto industry's worst year in history

BY SETH GALINSKY

On October 16 the U.S. Senate failed to override President George Bush's veto of a \$6.5 billion bill that would have provided up to 20 additional weeks of benefits for the unemployed.

Bush claimed the measure would "bust the budget" because it did not specify where the money needed for the extended benefits would come from. The Senate was two votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto.

Democrats came back with a bill more acceptable to Bush. This bill scales back additional benefits to 13 weeks, and provides funds by increasing some taxes and allowing the Internal Revenue Service to continue to collect student loan debts by confiscating tax refunds.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Robert Dole and favored by the administration would extend benefits for only 10 weeks.

If Bush "vetoes a bill that's paid for, then he's not really interested in helping the unemployed," said Rep. Thomas Downey, a Democrat from New York.

The wrangling in Washington over how few weeks of unemployment compensation the parties of big business will "grant" working people comes as the human cost of the recession continues to grow. Declining health care, growing numbers of people living in poverty, rising malnutrition among children, and increased safety hazards on the job are just a few indicators of the assault on working people.

The number of unemployed workers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, stood at 8.4 million in September — 1.6 million more than in July 1990 when the recession began. This is an official rate of 6.7 percent.

The partially unemployed, the number of people who are working part-time because they are unable to find full-time work, numbered 6.4 million in September.

The Department of Labor keeps separate figures for "discouraged workers," those who are unemployed but have given up looking for a job. Their number increased by 100,000 in the third quarter of the year to 1.1 million, the highest level since 1987.

About 3.3 million people, less than half of those who are unemployed, are now collecting unemployment benefits. Three million who have been jobless for more than half a year are no longer eligible.

The failure by Congress to override the veto and the three-week difference between the two existing bills highlight the extent of bipartisan agreement in Washington over domestic policy. Some Democrats are cynically using Bush's veto of the first bill, and threatened veto of the second, to score points that will help them in the upcoming elections.

AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland issued a three-sentence statement attacking Bush rather than both the Democrats and Republicans, for giving "the back of his hand to the unemployed." Because he remains within the framework of what labor's so-called friends in Congress do, Kirkland has proposed no action to mobilize the ranks of the unions to fight for more benefits for workers without jobs.

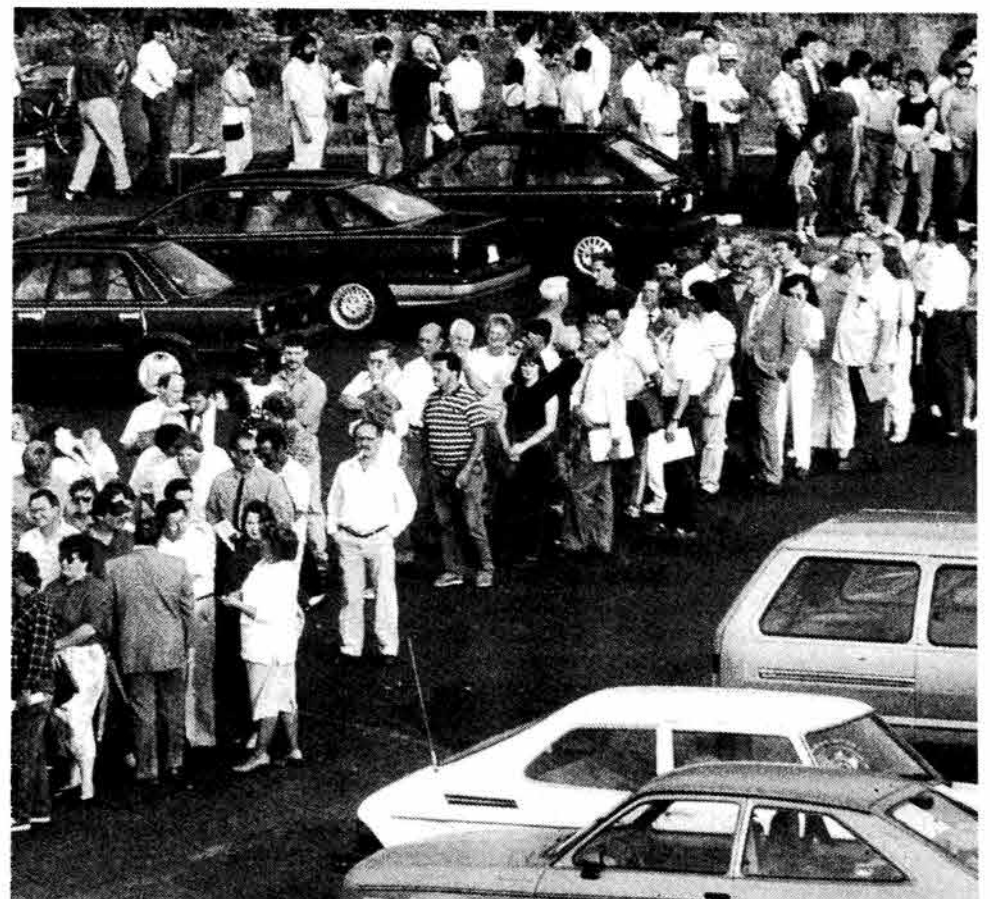
An ominous picture

Aside from unemployment statistics, recent figures on corporate profits, inflation, industrial output, bank failures, and bank loans paint an ominous picture of the U.S. economy.

- 1991 is expected to be the U.S. auto industry's worst year in history. The General Motors Corp. has reported a \$1.1 billion third-quarter loss and the Ford Motor Co. a \$574 million loss. The Chrysler Corp., which will announce its results next week, is expected to push total industry losses for the first nine months of the year to \$5 billion. In 1980, until now its worst year, the industry lost \$4 billion.

- Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M), "widely considered a barometer of the economy" in the words of the *Wall Street Journal*, reported a 12 percent drop in third-quarter earnings.

- The capitalists are concerned about the continuing tendency for the rate of profit to decline. Profit margins averaged about 6 per-



Some 1,200 people lining up for job applications in New Hampshire earlier this year.

cent of sales in the 1960s, but were below 5 percent in the 1980s. This decade the rate has dropped below 4 percent.

- Federal regulators released new estimates October 23 predicting a \$9.6 billion deficit next year for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), due to the increasing number of large banks that are expected to fail in 1992.

At least 200 banks with \$86 billion in assets are likely to fail next year — if the economy's decline levels off, the FDIC said. This year 137 banks with assets of \$73 billion are expected to fail.

Already jittery over the state of the economy, bank officials have drastically cut back on the loans they make, especially to small businesses and smaller capitalist enterprises.

Harry Featherstone, chief executive of the Will-Burt Co., a metal parts factory, told the *New York Times* that obtaining a bank loan for his company was much harder now than in 1985. After getting a \$500,000 loan this year, Featherstone complains that bank officers "call me every two or three weeks to ask me how things are going. They are nervous, and I don't blame them."

'Push the panic button'

Just a few months ago officials were hoping that growth in the manufacturing sector, one of the few major sections of the economy that in their view showed "strength," would lead to the end of the recession.

But the Federal Reserve reported that output at factories, mines, and utilities rose an anemic one-tenth of 1 percent in September after remaining the same in August.

On top of this, inflation, which many bourgeois economists expect to go down when the economy is in decline, is not abiding by their expectations. The Commerce Department said the Consumer Price Index rose in September to an annual rate of 5 percent.

President Bush has tried to gloss over the crisis. "As you see this economy recovering, I think it's all right to try to instill confidence in the marketplace," he said October 4.

Few share Bush's stated optimism. A *New York Times*/CBS News poll conducted in early October found that 60 percent of those interviewed believe things in the country have "pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track."

Working people, the main victims of the economic decline, have yet to begin to organize a counteroffensive or even widespread resistance to the attacks on their standard of living. The number of strikes involving 1,000 or more workers in 1990 was the lowest since before 1947. There were only 26 such strikes in the first eight months of 1991, compared to 34 during the same period in 1990. The

number of workers involved in strikes during this period doubled from 157,000 in 1990 to 364,000 in 1991, mostly due to the 235,000 rail workers who walked off the job for 19 hours last April.

Lawrence Hunter, deputy chief economist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, wrote in a column in the September 20 *Wall Street Journal* that "the political and social ramifications of a decline of this scale in the expected standard of living are hard to predict."

Wall Street economic forecaster Sam Nakagama is openly worried. He told the *Washington Post*, "I think that the Bush administration ought to be pushing the panic button."

Cities hassle homeless: Miami threatens fines, New York destroys huts

With unemployment on the rise and growing homelessness, city and state governments around the United States are trying to get the problems out of their hair, or at least out of their sight.

On October 19 the *New York Times* reported that the administration of Democratic mayor David Dinkins in New York City had strengthened the Homeless Outreach Unit, a special branch of the police. Their job: to kick the homeless out of subways, even in bitterly cold weather. As many as 5,000 people sleep in the subways during winter months.

To get around a city regulation that prohibits such callous action in subfreezing weather, Mayor Dinkins has figured out a loophole: use buses that were originally headed for the scrap heap to take the homeless to shelters. Many homeless people find the shelters uncomfortable, unpleasant, unsanitary, and unsafe and refuse to use them.

The stepped-up deployment of the "outreach" cops came just days after the city used bulldozers to destroy several shantytowns, driving out hundreds of people from their makeshift shacks.

The New York actions are part of a nationwide trend. The city of Atlanta passed a law in July authorizing the arrest of anyone loitering in abandoned buildings or engaging in "aggressive panhandling."

In Miami, unemployed workers who approach motorists at intersections to wash windows face a fine of as much as \$500 and a jail sentence of 60 days.

Last year Santa Barbara, California, banned homeless people from sleeping on public streets, beaches, or sidewalks.

—S.G.

Two accidents show nuclear danger

BY SETH GALINSKY

While fewer nuclear power plants are being built, little else has changed since the disaster at Three Mile Island in 1979 and the meltdown at Chernobyl in 1986. The hundreds of plants around the world are accidents waiting to happen. The waste they create accumulates day after day, with no known way to dispose safely of it.

Two accidents made the press recently: an October 11 fire at one of the remaining Chernobyl plants in the Ukraine and an August 13 electrical failure at Nine Mile Point in New York.

There are currently 111 commercial nuclear power plants operating in the United States, said Frank Ingram, spokesperson for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in a phone interview. Due to widespread opposition in reaction to Three Mile Island, no new construction of U.S. plants has begun since 1979, although 21 plants already under construction have been granted licenses over the last five years, he said.

Since 1963, 13 nuclear power plants in the United States have been permanently shut down. None have completed the lengthy decontamination and dismantling process known as "decommissioning."

There are now 20,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel from U.S. plants, according to the Department of Energy, but no approved federal storage sites. The Rancho Seco plant near Sacramento, California, for example, produced enough nuclear waste during its 14 years of operation to fill about 25 train boxcars, the *Christian Science Monitor* reports. As at all other commercial nuclear plants, Rancho Seco's nuclear garbage is still sitting in a pool of water at the plant site.

Big problems

Aside from fuel waste, the power plants themselves become highly radioactive during use. Most facilities have to wait 30 to 50 years for the most radioactive elements in pipes, floors, and walls to decay before the plant can be demolished "safely," even under present federal standards.

"The larger the plant, the bigger the possible problems," NRC project manager Peter

Erickson told the *Monitor*.

As the toxic mounds of waste grow, both from power plants and nuclear weapons facilities, the pressure on the federal government increases to find an acceptable permanent waste site so Washington can claim that the problem has been solved.

On October 3, Energy Secretary James Watkins announced that the \$1 billion Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, New Mexico, was ready to begin operations. In spite of opposition from New Mexico government officials and environmental groups, Watkins asserted the plant had passed all its safety reviews.

The pilot plant consists of a maze of storage rooms 2,150 feet beneath the desert. It is designed to hold nearly 1 million barrels of plutonium wastes from nuclear weapons plants and laboratories. Plans call for it to be tested with up to 9,000 barrels for a period of five years. To qualify, test sites are supposed to be stable for at least the 10,000 or so years needed for the most toxic wastes to decay.

As opposition heated up, the Energy Department agreed to delay opening the site until its plan has been reviewed by a federal court.

The transport of radioactive waste has also sparked protests.

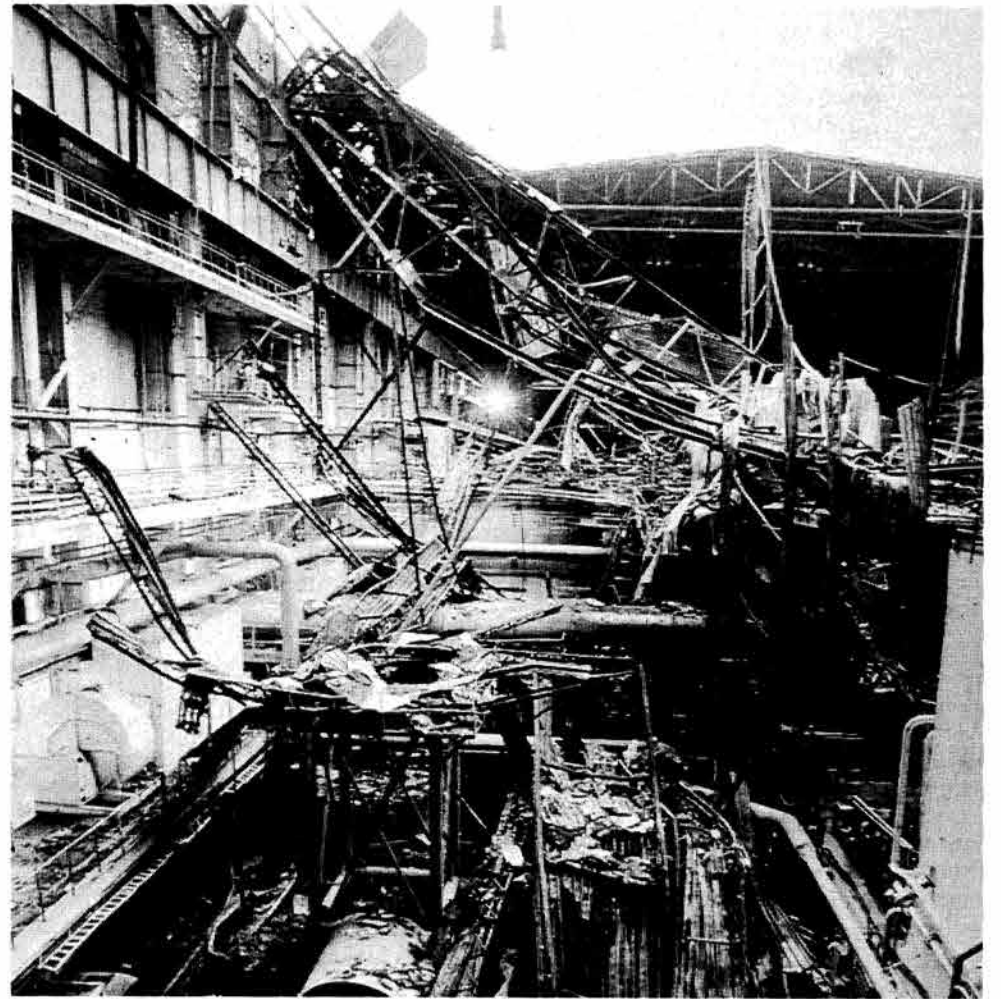
Tribal police dispatched by the Shoshone-Bannock tribes in Idaho intercepted a truck carrying spent nuclear fuel October 17 and refused to allow it to cross their reservation. A federal district judge later ordered the tribes to let the truck through.

The action reflects opposition by Native Americans to proposals to put waste dumps on reservations.

"Indian people, and not just in the United States, are getting fed up," said Robert Couler, executive director of the Indian Law Resource Center, "with having their lands used as dumping grounds for the wastes that everyone else fears."

Truth about Chernobyl

The ghost of the April 26, 1986, accident at Chernobyl in the Ukraine continues to haunt the nuclear power industry.



Damage from October 11 fire at Chernobyl No. 2. Three reactors were restarted after 1986 meltdown. Around 8 million people still live in contaminated area.

Dr. Vladimir Chernousenko, a 50-year-old nuclear physicist, was the scientific supervisor of the emergency team sent to Chernobyl five days after the meltdown in reactor No. 4. As a result of his exposure, Chernousenko is not expected to live more than two more years. He was interviewed in September by Peter Matthiessen for the *New York Times*.

According to Chernousenko, 5,000 to 7,000 people died as a result of the cleanup after the 1986 accident. Local coal miners collapsed from radiation poisoning within an hour. Young men were sent onto the roof of the reactor for no more than one minute to shovel graphite to help seal the radiating core. But their brief exposure and bulky radiation suits were of no avail. All of those sent onto the roof are dead.

Chernousenko calls it "10th-century technology being used to fight 20th-century catastrophe."

As many as 8 million people still live in heavily contaminated regions in the Ukraine. But none of this seems to matter to the Soviet authorities. On October 11, a fire broke out at Chernobyl's No. 2 reactor, one of three that were restarted after the 1986 disaster. Moscow claimed no radioactivity was released during the fire, which lasted three and a half hours and destroyed the roof over a generator.

NRC spokesperson Ingram stated that fears about nuclear power due to the 1986 Chernobyl accident are unfounded in the United States because "we don't have any plants like that here."

An 'unusual event'

But U.S.-made plants continue to have their own problems.

Al Bianchetti explained the details of the incident at Nine Mile Point 2 in an October 22 interview. Bianchetti is a spokesperson for Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., which operates the reactor, located on the shore of Lake Ontario.

The August 13 accident occurred when five supposedly "uninterruptible" power sources that supply the control room were cut off due to a power surge. Electricity that goes to the reactor itself continued to function, allowing the reactor to shut down.

The accident was originally characterized as a "site area emergency"—the second-most serious type of emergency in the NRC's ranking.

According to Bianchetti the "design flaw" that caused the problem has been corrected. The reactor, back on line since the end of September, has been given a clean bill of health by the NRC, he said.

Niagara Mohawk is especially concerned that accidents of this nature not "unduly alarm" people, Bianchetti said. He explained that they had won NRC agreement that future

such incidents will be called "alerts" or "unusual events"—the least serious ranking on the NRC scale.

In spite of claims by the NRC and others that U.S.-designed plants are superior to Soviet plants, the *New York Times* notes in an October 13 article that Soviet plants have "design strengths" of their own.

"In an accident like the one at Three Mile Island," the article points out, the Soviet plants "would take far longer to overheat, because there is more water in their heat-exchangers."

Chernousenko, who has seen the results first hand, is adamant in his opposition to all nuclear power. It is impossible, he said, to build a safe reactor.

Rally protests colonial status of Puerto Rico

BY K.C. ELLIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One thousand supporters of the Puerto Rican independence struggle gathered here October 12.

The march and rally for the independence of the U.S. colony and the release of Puerto Rican political prisoners held in U.S. jails was organized by Centro Juan Antonio Corretjer. Participants came from Chicago, Boston, New York and Hartford, Connecticut.

After gathering in Malcolm X Park, a spirited march proceeded to Lafayette Park across from the White House. Led by former political prisoners and relatives of jailed independence fighters the participants chanted, "Independence for Puerto Rico!"

Rally speakers included Bobby Castillo of the International Indian Treaty Organization and Korean student Lee Doo Wan. Doo Wan had been on a three-day hunger strike in front of the White House in protest of U.S. support for the brutal Roh Tae Woo regime in South Korea. Puerto Rican rights activist and poet Piri Thomas read a selection of his works.

An enthusiastic response was given to Rafael Cancel Miranda, hero of the freedom struggle and longtime political prisoner. Cancel Miranda, who along with other independence fighters was sentenced to 81 years for the 1954 attack on the U.S. Congress, explained that when the government told him he would die in prison "they forgot one important thing—the people."

It was the "power of the people" that forced the government to release the political prisoners. Instead of being in prison, he said, "I am marching in Washington in 1991" to demand Puerto Rican independence. He praised Cuba's determination to stand up to imperialism, prompting chants of "Cuba, Cuba, Cuba," from the crowd.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

PAT SMITH

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

Pathfinder books have a growing audience among working people in the military around the world—and they get ahold of them in a wide variety of ways. Recently, for example, a GI at one of the United States army bases in Europe wrote to Pathfinder applying to establish an account. He said there weren't any books worth reading at the Post Exchange (PX) store on the base so he wants to start selling Pathfinder books, especially those by revolutionary leader Malcolm X. He got the OK from the base commander to set up a book table outside the store and his first order is on the way. He also told Pathfinder that his brother in the navy would soon be doing the same thing at another base.

GIs stationed at bases in Europe and the Pacific get Pathfinder books through distributors that supply bookstores at military bases overseas.

Many soldiers write directly to Pathfinder. During the U.S.-led war against Iraq, for example, a steady stream of requests for books came from GIs stationed in the Mideast. Pathfinder recently received an order from a staff sergeant in New Mexico. She ordered four books—two by Malcolm X plus *W.E.B. Du Bois Speaks* and *COINTELPRO: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*.

Another recent order came from the

bookstore at the Fort Knox, Kentucky, army base. The order included *Blacks in America's Wars*; *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*; *The Struggle Is My Life* by Nelson Mandela; *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast*; *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*; and *New International no. 7 "The Opening Guns of World War III."*



Sales of one of Pathfinder's newest books, *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, have already hit 2,000 copies. Released just a few weeks ago, the book contains the speeches delivered by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro to a rally in Mantanzas, Cuba, this past July.

The publishing house has just announced that the Spanish-language edition of *How Far We Slaves Have Come!*, *¡Qué lejos hemos llegado los esclavos!* will be released at the end of October.

The book was well received during recent Pathfinder sales visits to bookstores and libraries in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area. In New York, 75 copies of *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* were ordered by a distributor that supplies books to street table vendors in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

The new book was also prominently featured at Pathfinder booths at the Northern California Booksellers Association's annual trade show in Oakland, California, and the Great Lakes Booksellers Association's bookfair in Lansing, Michigan. Many of the thousands of people who went to the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville, Tennessee, got to see the new book by Mandela and Castro at the booth of the Birmingham, Alabama, Pathfinder Bookstore.

'Militant' sales campaign heads into final stretch

BY GREG McCARTAN

"We're right on target."
 "Supporters are going to go over all our goals by November 21!"
 "This week was our best yet."

These are just a few of the comments we've received at the *Militant* office after the first five days of the eight-day sales blitz in the international circulation campaign. With a final effort in each city, all the goals of the drive can be met.

The final scoreboard will be printed on November 12. Supporters around the world have until 10:00 a.m. on November 11 to get their final results into the *Militant* to be included in the wrap-up statistics.

Challenges remain

What are the political and organizational challenges before supporters going into the final days of the campaign?

First is continuing to reach out with the socialist press to workers, students and other youth, working farmers, and those involved in protest actions. Reports from supporters in every city emphasize that the most single copies and subscriptions to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *L'internationaliste*, and the Marxist magazine *New International* are sold by presenting a working-class perspective on the big political issues today.

This issue of the *Militant* can be used in the same way: how the labor movement can fight the anti-working class perspective put

forward by David Duke; what is the root of the government's divisions over the Central Intelligence Agency; why working people should oppose the "chop" at Atlanta Braves baseball games; and fights against police brutality and in defense of abortion rights.

Meet every goal

Having come this far, supporters around the world are determined to meet each of the four goals adopted in the campaign and win 6,200 new readers to the socialist press. Going over the goal where possible can insure we meet the overall international goal as well.

Victor, in Los Angeles, reports how supporters there are aiming to meet their goals: "We sold 62 copies of *New International* this week, putting us 7 over our goal. Seventeen were sold at a Militant Labor Forum featuring a talk on the Cuban revolution by *New International* editor Mary-Alice Waters. Forty-three more were sold on regional teams sent to Phoenix, Santa Barbara, and San Diego; on Los Angeles-area college campuses; and in the Pathfinder Bookstore.

"We sold 48 *Militant* subscriptions this week, putting us only 8 away from our goal. This week we will concentrate on *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions as well."

Pittsburgh supporters write: "Three *Militant* subscriptions were sold at two campaign events for Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Penn-

sylvania. At an Edinboro University event 50 students turned out to hear the oil worker. One decided to join the Young Socialist Alliance."

Candace Wagner, organizing the sales campaign in Detroit: "Since we are ahead

'Militant' gives working-class perspective on David Duke, CIA, and 'the chop.'

of schedule our plan is to meet goals by November 1 and use the last weekend to go way over all our goals to help make the international goals."

Sales to unionists

A big effort is needed to increase sales to coworkers and members of industrial unions around the world. A few highlights this week:

Supporters in Morgantown, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland traveled to Ravenswood, West Virginia, October 19 for a weekend rally in support of striking steelworkers. Seven participants in the event subscribed to the *Militant*.

A young auto worker attended a YSA-sponsored event at Wayne State university in Detroit, renewed his *Militant* subscription, and asked to join the revolutionary youth organization. Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, participating in the drive there, reached their goal of selling 10 subscriptions to coworkers. They

report wide interest in the paper's coverage of the issue of sexual harassment of women raised during the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Two United Transportation Union members in Omaha who work on the railroads signed up for 12 weeks of the *Militant* as did two UFCW members.

Just off the fax

From Michele Prairie in Montreal: "A regional team from Toronto sold 3 subscriptions to farmers and 6 to students. A sales team attending a big rally of farmers protesting harsh conditions they face completely sold out of the *Militant*, including all the back issues they had with them."

Supporters in Chicago took a goal of winning 35 new readers during the target week. The results? Thirty-seven sold — just 2 short of their goal of 163 *Militant* subscriptions.

From our mailbag

Matt in Houston writes: "We sold 6 subscriptions at the University of Southwest Louisiana last week. The team was there the day before the elections, and since no working-class alternative has been posed to David Duke's program or campaign, there was great interest in the *Militant*."

At a mayoral candidate's debate in Houston at the High School of Performing and Visual Arts, seven students bought copies of the *Militant* and three asked for more information on the YSA after hearing Socialist Workers candidate Willie Mae Reid.

Scoreboard											
SALES DRIVE ON SCHEDULE!											
Perspectiva											
The Militant											
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Portland	15	15	100%	0	0	10	7	0	0	25	22
Greensboro, NC	55	53	96%	10	6	14	8	1	0	80	67
Detroit *	122	114	93%	10	6	30	31	2	1	164	152
New York *	250	222	89%	100	76	110	76	15	16	475	390
Seattle *	95	84	88%	35	34	27	13	3	0	160	131
Newark, NJ *	150	131	87%	50	34	70	46	5	6	275	217
Pittsburgh	75	65	87%	3	4	30	10	2	0	110	79
Houston	75	64	85%	20	11	30	11	2	0	127	86
Chicago	163	135	83%	40	26	70	13	2	1	275	175
Washington, DC	100	83	83%	18	21	55	46	2	5	175	155
Birmingham, Ala.	110	90	82%	5	3	43	25	2	0	160	118
Los Angeles *	170	138	81%	100	74	107	55	3	0	380	267
Twin Cities, Minn.	165	134	81%	18	14	55	40	2	0	240	188
Salt Lake City *	170	137	81%	24	18	54	25	2	0	250	180
Miami *	100	81	81%	30	21	44	31	5	9	179	142
St. Louis	115	93	81%	5	1	30	11	2	0	152	105
Morgantown, WV *	90	72	80%	3	2	30	19	2	3	125	96
Cleveland	85	67	79%	10	5	25	16	2	0	122	88
San Francisco	160	125	78%	65	34	72	42	3	2	300	203
Baltimore	85	66	78%	12	3	40	11	3	1	140	81
Atlanta *	121	90	74%	12	5	56	17	2	0	191	112
Philadelphia *	70	51	73%	20	10	35	15	2	1	127	77
Omaha, Neb.	86	62	72%	12	8	25	10	2	0	125	80
Boston *	125	88	70%	40	23	53	44	7	8	225	163
Des Moines, Iowa *	136	92	68%	25	18	40	6	2	0	203	116
Denver	6	4	67%	3	0	2	0	0	0	11	4
Cincinnati	17	11	65%	2	0	6	0	0	0	25	11
Wichita	10	6	60%	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	7
Anamosa	10	6	60%	2	0	2	0	0	0	14	6
Louisville	6	2	33%	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2
New Haven, Conn.	18	4	22%	2	0	5	0	0	0	25	4
National teams	25	21	84%	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	21
U.S. TOTAL	2,980	2,406	81%	676	458	1,170	628	75	53	4,901	3,545
AUSTRALIA *	27	14	52%	7	5	15	9	1	0	50	28
BELGIUM	4	1	25%	1	0	7	4	10	3	22	8
BRITAIN											
Manchester	60	48	80%	3	3	40	15	2	0	105	66
London	100	76	76%	7	9	70	50	3	3	180	138
Sheffield	60	20	33%	3	3	40	5	2	0	105	28
Other Britain	10	5	50%	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	7
BRITAIN TOTAL	230	149	65%	13	17	150	70	7	3	400	239
CANADA											
Vancouver	80	73	91%	15	14	30	18	5	2	130	107
Montreal *	65	58	89%	20	14	50	34	30	31	165	137
Toronto *	80	69	86%	20	16	45	41	5	5	150	131
CANADA TOTAL	225	200	89%	55	44	125	93	40	38	445	375
FRANCE *	5	3	60%	5	3	20	20	15	11	45	37
ICELAND	20	7	35%	0	1	4	1	0	0	24	9
MEXICO	0	1	0%	15	6	5	0	0	0	20	7
NEW ZEALAND											
Christchurch	53	51	96%	2	0	12	7	1	0	68	58
Auckland	75	63	84%	9	6	25	15	1	0	110	84
Wellington	50	32	64%	3	0	14	10	1	0	68	42
Other New Zealand	4	8	200%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
N. Z. TOTAL	182	154	85%	14	6	51	32	3	0	250	192
PUERTO RICO *	2	0	0%	8	5	8	8	0	0	18	13
SWEDEN	45	27	60%	20	25	15	11	3	2	83	65
TOTAL	3,720	2,962	80%	814	570	1,570	876	154	110	6,233	4,518
SHOULD BE		2,946	80%		651		1,256		123		4,986
DRIVE GOALS	3,660			800		1,600		140		6,200	

*Raised goals.
 **Single copies of *New International*, *Nueva Internacional*, and *Nouvelle Internationale*; Subscriptions to *L'internationaliste*

Palestinians at conference fight for best possible terms

Continued from front page

Association; Saeb Erakat, 36, a professor of political science at An Najah University in Nablus; Sameh Kanaan, 38, an employee of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce; and Elias Freij, 72, the mayor of Bethlehem. The youngest delegate is Ghassan al-Khatib, 35, a professor at Bir Zeit University.

Along with the delegation, Palestinians announced the formation of an advisory panel that will also go to Madrid. To the chagrin of Tel Aviv the United States government, which is the main sponsor of the conference, issued an invitation to the group.

The advisory panel will be headed by Faisal al-Husseini, a well-known supporter of the PLO and resident of East Jerusalem. Its spokesperson will be Hanan Ashrawi, a university professor.

This will be the first time that the Israeli government has agreed to sit down and negotiate with leaders selected by the Palestinians themselves. Both the rise of a leadership from inside "Greater" Israel as a result of the *intifadah*, the Palestinian uprising that began in 1987, and a political and economic weakening of Israel itself have forced Tel Aviv to begin making concessions it never dreamed of making two decades ago.

The delegation is also significant because of the blows dealt to the Palestinian cause during the U.S.-led war against Iraq, due primarily to the political support extended to Iraqi president Saddam Hussein by Yasir Arafat and other PLO leaders.

In spite of this, Palestinian leaders in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories fought for participation in the conference on the best possible terms. That they have been somewhat successful is an indication of what has been won by the *intifadah*.

Tel Aviv is especially upset with the naming of the advisory team.

"We will not speak with these advisers," Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir said. "Secondly, they will not be present in the room during the deliberations of the conference."

In spite of their half-hearted threats to walk out of the conference if the Palestinian delegates too openly express their support for the PLO, the Israeli government underscored how seriously they view the talks by deciding that Shamir himself would head up their delegation.

The delegations of the participating Arab

governments in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon are all being headed by their respective foreign ministers.

In a related development, Moscow re-established full diplomatic relations with Israel for the first time since the 1967 six-day war, which ended with the Israeli occupation of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, the Syrian Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, and Jordan's West Bank.

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Sold	(Goal)	Sold
UNITED STATES				
ACTWU	62%	34	21	10
IAM	68%	127	86	44
ILGWU	60%	25	15	8
IUE	57%	65	37	18
OCAW	55%	38	21	25
UAW	63%	82	52	28
UFCW	64%	100	64	25
UMWA	84%	25	21	9
USWA	78%	91	71	25
UTU	71%	105	75	45
TOTAL	67%	692	463	237
SHOULD BE	80%	553	353	190
AUSTRALIA				
MFTU	29%	7	2	3
SHOULD BE	80%	7	6	2
BRITAIN				
AEU	20%	10	2	6
NUM	36%	14	5	9
RMT	38%	26	10	13
TGWU	35%	20	7	8
TOTAL	34%	70	24	36
SHOULD BE	80%	56	36	29
CANADA				
ACTWU	0%	7	0	2
CAW	80%	10	8	3
IAM	60%	10	6	4
USWA	31%	16	5	8
TOTAL	44%	43	19	9
SHOULD BE	80%	35	17	14
NEW ZEALAND				
NZEU	17%	6	1	1
NZMWU	56%	9	5	3
FTWU	40%	5	2	1
UFCW	71%	7	5	2
TOTAL	48%	27	13	7
SHOULD BE	80%	22	7	5
SWEDEN				
FOOD WORKERS	17%	6	1	3
METAL	89%	9	8	3
TOTAL	60%	15	9	6
SHOULD BE	80%	12	6	5

* Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'internationaliste*.

Assault on Ohio abortion clinic defeated

BY PETER THIERJUNG

CINCINNATI — Tri-State Rescue, a right-wing outfit, was defeated in its attempts to shut down the Planned Parenthood clinic here October 19. Hundreds of students and youth, workers, and defenders of women's rights mobilized in the streets for three days against the outfit. The clinic is one of four where abortions are performed in this city.

"This was the most opposition we've had," Burr Robinson, one of Tri-State Rescue's organizers told the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. "I was in Wichita, and that did not occur. The pro-choice action there was not of that nature. It was not confrontational." Tri-State Rescue is an offshoot of Operation Rescue, which organized the drive to close abortion clinics in Wichita, Kansas.

For two days as many as 300 rightists participated in a violent assault against clinic defenders with the goal of physically blocking the clinic's entrances and denying women their legal right to an abortion.

Tri-State Rescue launched its two-day drive to shut down the clinic with an October 17 rally of almost 400 at the First Christian Assembly of God church. Earlier in the day, Tri-State spokespeople Kim Bush and Philip Vollman paraded what they claimed was an aborted 7-month-old human fetus before television cameras and asserted they were not bound by laws protecting a woman's right to choose.

More than 1,200 people countered the rightist rally with a picket line across the street that spanned several city blocks. The mood of the pickets was militant and determined. The countermobilization was called by students and local chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Angela McFarlan, a 21-year-old Black woman, came from Northern Kentucky University after learning about the action by word of mouth. Like the hundreds of young people at the action, it was the first time she joined a protest in defense of abortion rights. She said Clarence Thomas's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as Tri-State Rescue's planned assault, prompted her to act now.

"I believe the government and the church should not interfere with a woman's right to abortion," said Linda Drinnon, the chairperson of United Auto Workers Local 647's women's committee. She said her participation in the countermobilization was one way to begin to get the labor movement in the Cincinnati area involved in the fight to defend abortion rights. "Someone has to start," she said.

Initial stand by NOW

Following the countermobilization, women's rights supporters rallied nearby and heard speakers denounce Tri-State Rescue's goals and tactics. Terri Smith, a leader of the student-based Coalition for Choice, was enthusiastically cheered when she announced plans to defend the clinics and called on

everyone to join the effort.

NOW president Kate Curry, however, elicited jeers from the crowd when she responded to Smith's call by announcing that the city's abortion clinic directors wanted supporters of abortion rights to stay away from the clinics.

In the weeks and days prior to Tri-State Rescue's assault, clinic operators, supported by officials of NOW and NARAL, vigorously opposed any proposals to defend the clinics through countermobilizations.

Planned Parenthood spokespeople told television reporters, "We don't think the clinic is an appropriate place for this type of confrontation. Our tactic is let the police handle it." Some clinic operators even threatened to have abortion rights supporters arrested along with the ultrarightists.

Before dawn on October 18, the day after the right-wing rally, Tri-State Rescue bosses dispatched their forces in cars headed in four directions in an attempt to confuse clinic defenders.

Abortion rights activists, however, had runners and lookouts organized and were tipped off that the ultrarightists were converging on the Planned Parenthood clinic. The rightists assembled a few blocks away and organized a march to the clinic.

Carrying what appeared to be a draped platform with a small coffin and singing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," some 200 ultrarightists led by a group of burly men approached the clinic. Their placards read, "Abortion is murder" and "Abortion: America's holocaust."

Meanwhile clinic defenders linked arms forming a human line in front of the clinic's five-foot iron fence. They chanted loudly, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Operation Rescue has got to go" and "Racist, sexist, antigay, born-again bigots go away." Abortion rights activists deployed at other clinics raced to Planned Parenthood to join the defense, bringing their numbers to 100.

Police had already deployed a minimal force in front of the clinic.

When the Tri-State Rescue marchers arrived at the clinic, they set down the draped platform in front of the clinic's left gate, forming a crowd around it. Others began to picket on the sidewalk in front of the clinic defense line. Their leaders, designated by color-coded armbands, immediately fraternized with the police.

Rightists' first assault

After a short time, they began to picket again. When the Tri-State Rescue leaders picked up the draped platform, they gave the impression that they were organizing their forces to leave the area.

But within seconds, they dodged to the clinic's left side. They tossed off the drape and box on the platform, which was actually two ladders. Using mace, they assaulted clinic defenders, threw the ladders against the fence, and after a scuffle began leaping over onto the clinic's grounds.

The attack disoriented clinic defenders, whose line across the front of the clinic was already stretched thin. Many of them rushed to the clinic's left side. Those who remained at their posts in the front then faced a larger assault by the rightists.

Tri-State Rescue thugs kicked, jabbed, and shoved frontline defenders, pushing some to the ground and using them as human steps to get over the fence. Once on the other side, the ultrarightists rushed the clinic's entrances and blocked them.

A few hours later the police began the arrests. Their kid-gloved treatment of the Tri-State Rescue lawbreakers stood in sharp contrast to the cops' reputation for brutality in this city's Black and working-class areas. An editorial in the October 19 *Cincinnati Post* saluted the police for their "gentle" handling of the ultrarightists.

The rightists held the street in front of the clinic that afternoon. They shouted at a dozen abortion rights supporters, now across the street. "We won! We won!"

More than 70 ultrarightists were arrested in all, including a large layer of Tri-State Rescue's central leaders. Several abortion rights supporters were also arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

A repeat of the pattern of events seemed to be in the offing the next day, October 19. Clinic defenders arrived early, forming a human chain in front of the clinic's fence. Tri-State Rescue followers marched to the clinic from the same direction. But the similarities ended there.

Reinforcements pour in

Clinic defenders' ranks swelled to more than 250 as students and others arrived from across the city and southern Ohio. Some came from as far away as Chicago. Many responded only because they had seen the reports on television, or received calls from friends and coworkers. As more reinforcements arrived, the defenders' confidence grew. The chants became louder and more defiant. "No more Wichitas!" and "Cincinnati is not Wichita!" they roared as the rightists arrived.

nati is not Wichita!" they roared as the rightists arrived.

A group of thugs leading the Tri-State Rescue march formed a wedge and immediately attacked the clinic's left gate to force an opening in the clinic defenders' line. But the defenders held their ground and reinforced the line. The police then waded into the crowd arresting two abortion rights activists and two Tri-State Rescue followers.

The police then aided the rightists by looking for excuses to open the line, in some cases demanding that clinic defenders unlink their arms and threatening to arrest them. On several occasions they waded through the Tri-State Rescue picket line to arrest clinic defenders on charges fabricated by the rightist pickets.

Shortly before 9 a.m., police forced clinic defenders away from a section of fence on the right side of the clinic. Sensing the opportunity, Tri-State lieutenants quickly rushed the spot and attempted to climb over the fence. A handful of students and some autoworker unionists handily repelled the attack.

Because of the clinic defenders' discipline, police were forced to allow clinic escorts to bring patients into the clinic. The police chief had earlier blocked access to the clinic by closing off the street, citing the potential for a violent confrontation. Some 25 patients were treated at the clinic that day.

Abortion rights supporters were jubilant when the clinic announced that it had ended its business day and kept its appointments. Tri-State Rescue followers were visibly demoralized and as they left clinic defenders began dancing in the street.

The Cincinnati NOW chapter held a victory rally of several hundred downtown October 20. They invited organizers of the clinic defense effort to speak. They also announced that they were reconsidering their position against defending the clinics. Press reports indicate Tri-State Rescue may again attack the clinics in November.

Right-wing actions debated by working people in Wichita

BY GREG ROSENBERG

WICHITA, Kansas — Actions by rightists here over the summer generated a debate among working people throughout the city.

A letter to the editor published in the September issue of the AFL-CIO newspaper *Plaindealer* condemned the assaults on abortion clinics by the rightists. Signed by Lee Kinch, chairperson of the Democratic Party in Sedgwick County, the letter referred to Operation Rescue as "Bible thumping bigots who were unabashedly violating the rule of law."

In response, an unsigned letter was distributed on the shop floor at Beechcraft, one of the large aerospace plants in the area. Beechcraft is organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ," the letter began. "Throughout the past several years, we have watched with dismay as the union we have supported with time and money has taken positions (outside the spectrum of collective bargaining) that are increasingly leftwing, and contrary to our Christian beliefs." The letter went on to attack a woman's right to choose abortion, referring to abortion as the killing of "an unborn child."

"The IAM is also against school prayer, and favor[s] gun control," the letter continued. "So what do we as Christians do? ... If they (the union) are using your money to advance ungodly causes, don't give them any more money. Have nothing more to do with it. Christians, now is the time to make a stand. Get out of the union."

Officials of the IAM did not respond to the letter. The first public reaction appeared in the October issue of the *Plaindealer*. In that edition, the paper's board of directors — which includes officials of the IAM, Postal Workers, Communication Workers, Iron Workers, and other unions — published a disclaimer. A highlighted box on the letters page stated that the "*Plaindealer* adopts the position of the AFL-CIO that the issue of abortion is not a labor issue, therefore this issue will not be addressed or commented upon in this paper."

Another box, appearing under the title

"letters to the editor policy," stated in part, "The *Plaindealer* board of directors has requested that comments be limited to labor issues and not on issues such as abortion, gun control, and school prayer."

Throughout the course of the rightist mobilizations, union officials refused to mount organized mobilizations to oppose the aggressive street actions organized by Operation Rescue against broader democratic rights. This course was justified by labor officials who said that abortion was a "divisive" issue for the working class.

Pat Lehman, a leader of the IAM and president of the Wichita/Hudson Labor Federation, spoke at a pro-choice rally in July. However, she claimed that to raise the question of abortion rights, especially in a "right-to-work" state like Kansas would set the labor movement back.

Kansas is one of the states where "right-to-work" laws are on the books. These anti-union statutes are aimed at weakening the ability of unions to organize and fight. In right-to-work states only "open shops" are allowed, where workers are not automatically part of the union. The bosses routinely take advantage of this to campaign among workers to convince them not to join the union.

The response of the labor officials does not take into account the fact that a majority of working people, including unionized aerospace workers, support a woman's right to choose abortion and oppose the violent street mobilizations organized by Operation Rescue. By yielding to the rightist and government assault on abortion rights, the labor officials block the unions from bringing their strength to bear in this central issue facing the working class. The oppression of women, and denial of their rights, is one of the main ways the ruling rich divide working people.

While no trade union organized its membership to join pro-choice actions or clinic defense efforts, many individual unionists, especially aerospace workers, made their way to the picket lines to defend clinics and to the August 25 rally in defense of abortion rights.



Militant/Paco Sánchez

Supporters of a woman's right to choose abortion defended Cincinnati clinics October 18 and 19 against rightist assault led by Operation Rescue.

500 years since Columbus's voyage

'Achievement of discovery clouded by the enormous crime of conquest'

October 12, 1992, will mark the 500th anniversary of the first sighting of land in the Americas by Christopher Columbus. Columbus, an Italian-born voyager, was sponsored by the king and queen of Spain on a journey in which he aimed to reach the east of Asia by sailing westward from Europe, a feat which had never been done before. At the time the existence of the Americas was unknown in Europe.

Completing his first voyage across the Atlantic, Columbus landed in the Caribbean, which he explored. On a later voyage, he made the first European discovery of the South American continent.

These discoveries, which opened up the colonization of the Americas by European powers, marked a turning point in world history. While the anniversary of Columbus's arrival is being officially celebrated by governments throughout the Americas, other gatherings have been held to commemorate "500 years of Indian and popular resistance" — the theme of the Second Continental Meeting of Indigenous Peoples held recently in Guatemala — or to mourn the destruction of Native peoples and their cultures that followed the European arrival.

The following is an interview with Cuban minister of culture Armando Hart Dávalos, on the significance of Columbus's achievement. The article is reprinted from the Feb. 21 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*, and appeared under the title, "Faithful to the universality that inspired the navigators in 1492."

"The great geographical discoveries of the 15th and 16th centuries were historic, but they must be distinguished from the conquest, although the two events were interrelated in practice. The Europeans came with the desire to find new worlds — to discover them for themselves, of course, because these lands were already well known to the indigenous peoples — and above all, with the desire to prove that the world was round. But the Spanish feudal classes took control of the discovery and began to loot, steal and violently carry out the conquest," observed Armando Hart, Cuban minister of culture, in an exclusive interview with *Granma Weekly Review*.

"I think that we haven't had sufficient distance to evaluate the great discoveries of Christopher Columbus and those who came later. I'm referring not to the 'discovery' of a continent but rather the discovery of what I have called 'the roads of the world,' that is, the route to America and the world, which is something that opened up the way for progress. After the voyages by Magellan and other navigators, it could almost be proved that the earth was round, and the world began to be perceived for what it really is. But this great



Aztec leader Montezuma and conquistador Hernán Cortés, depicted on modern Mexican mural. Spanish monarchy extracted huge amounts of precious metals for its luxury.

achievement of the discovery was clouded from the very beginning by the shameful and enormous crime of the conquest."

Granma. Why do you say that the retrograde forces in Spain at the time took advantage of the discovery of America?

Hart. The Europeans made these discoveries in order to expand trade and the known world. These events, in and of themselves, were revolutionary events that extended human culture into a dimension unknown until that moment. Since the fall of the Roman empire, 1000 years before, nothing of that magnitude had taken place. Actually, it's hard to find a more significant event before 1492, and after that date it is comparable to the splitting of the atom and the possibilities for controlling energy unleashed by that accomplishment.

But the feat of the discovery, fueled by nascent European capitalism with its goals of economic expansion, was blemished by unbridled pillage, the essence of the conquest which followed. While the discovery of America signified progress, the conquest was one of the darkest and most shameful stages in the history of humanity.

Those who came to America after the European discoverers, employed methods that were backward in comparison to the capitalism opening up on the old continent. They were methods of physical conquest; they weren't methods of merchants, nor did their violent irruption into the Americas signify any trade opening. They came in search of the gold and riches of the indigenous

people; they annihilated the material and spiritual progress of the native peoples and the dire consequences rebounded back to Spain, blocking the arrival and consolidation of the bourgeois system.

Granma. Could we conclude that Spain's achievement of the discovery ultimately was not beneficial to Spain?

Hart. Columbus was a great figure whom I admire, and his voyage promoted the search for new trade routes and, as I said, the confirmation of the notion that the world is round, first explored during ancient times. But the reactionary Spanish classes at that time and the centuries to follow attempted, through the annihilation of the cultures and people of the Americas, to consolidate their essential interests and brought about a great retrocession which was the most disastrous for Spain. The conquest and colonization was carried out with precapitalist methods and forms, and as a result bourgeois development was delayed for centuries.

Events such as the English Industrial Revolution or the French Revolution of 1789, with all its influences and consequences, did not take place in Spain. That is because the continent discovered by the Europeans, which was already well known to its original inhabitants, who had gone there from Asia, helped the existing feudal system to crush or hold back the seeds of the bourgeoisie that were sprouting up at the end of the 15th century, the same seeds that had sparked interest in navigation and the search for the sea route to the Indies starting in the middle of that century, and especially as of the occupation of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453.

Spanish society became wealthy as a result of the conquest of the Americas, including the discovery of huge deposits of precious metals. The booties were highly coveted and financed the luxuries of the courts and other superfluous expenses. This helped finance the British accumulation of wealth and the rampant development of capitalism there, to the detriment of Spain, which was held back for centuries.

Thus the enlightenment of the bourgeois regime on the [Iberian] Peninsula was delayed for almost five centuries, because it wasn't until the last 40 years that a bourgeois democratic process began to take place there. Previously there were attempts, efforts were made, but Spain did not become a classic bourgeois society until the present day.

Granma. This was a tragic delay which had negative consequences for Spain and other peoples, particularly in the Americas.

Hart. That backwardness, that lack of progress, was a result of the conquest but it was not the only one. The conquest had three serious consequences: the strategic backwardness in Spain; the annihilation of the indigenous peoples and cultures; and African slavery. These last two phenomena cannot be accepted or justified in any way, today or ever, and we must reject them wholeheartedly. This is an ethical

problem which is still valid today.

If we are able to separate the revolutionary event signified by the Europeans' great geographical discoveries half a millennium ago from the conquest and the colonization by the Spanish feudal class, we can interpret the history of these 500 years in a scientific and beneficial manner.

Granma. You framed the results of the conquest in current ethical terms, but what about the human aspect in those early centuries?

Hart. The conquest which followed the discoveries exterminated the Indian population in various countries, brutally altering the way of life there and imposing intense regimens of exploitation, disease and helplessness, and almost from the beginning it brought in African slaves, expanding the slave trade to an appalling extent. These atrocities were maintained for centuries and must be condemned today, and must certainly never be forgotten. We must understand and recognize the meaning of the holocaust perpetrated over several centuries, based on elemental moral principles.

We cannot praise the positive and beautiful aspects of the feat achieved by those early navigators without repudiating the conquest. This is how we can be faithful to the universality that inspired the sailors in 1492 and the highest humanist postulates of civilization. Of course, one could argue that history had to happen that way and that history has its laws. But you could also argue that human beings have a moral conscience, an ethical conscience, and for that reason we hate the Roman emperors who took the Christians to the coliseum to be clawed to death by the lions and we admire Spartacus.¹

I don't think we could admire the example of Father Bartolomé de Las Casas² without repudiating Pizarro,³ whose actions still weigh dramatically on Peruvian society; he caused profound splits among the population, Indians and Spaniards, and caused traumas which persist in that country.

We are now preparing to hold a dignified commemoration of the fifth centennial of those voyages, of the discovery of the roads of the world, and we are happy to do so if such a commemoration can serve to denounce the conquest, at least morally, because today we face modern conquerors who are no less retrograde than the ones 500 years ago.

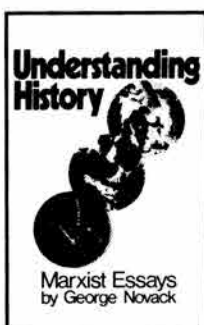
Granma. You are asserting the current validity of those historical circumstances of 500 years ago. Could you be more explicit?

Hart. History tends to repeat itself, interestingly enough, although today's conquerors are different. We must prevent the retrograde classes from taking control, once again, of the great scientific discoveries in order to crush or subjugate humanity. This is a practical as well as a moral problem which offers great lessons today.

In our world, indigenous populations exist which have witnessed the destruction of their cultures. This cannot be forgotten. Often the reactionary classes today take control of the technical achievements, just as the Spanish feudal class did with the geographical discoveries, to the detriment of the bourgeois thinking which had fostered them, and they are trying to consolidate and expand their control now, in the modern world.

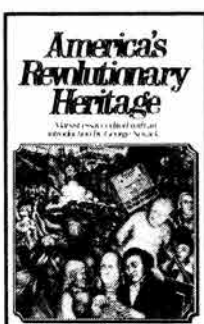
The great scientific advancements, the great discoveries have in many cases been taken over by the reactionaries, in the arms race and terrorizing the world through imperialism, all of which does nothing to help the impoverished masses of the planet. Today the imperialists want to conquer and crush us with technological development, based on their control of such research and its results. The U.S. military-industrial complex, for instance, which is about as up-to-

Further reading from Pathfinder

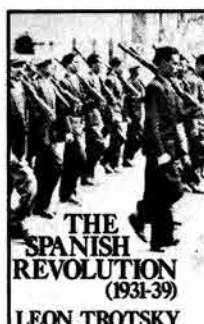


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1. Spartacus, Roman slave who led a band of several thousand runaway slaves. They defeated the Roman army a number of times before being massacred in 71 BC.

2. Bartolomé de Las Casas, Spanish priest (1474-1566) who spoke out against the destruction of Indian societies under Spanish domination.

3. Francisco Pizarro, Spanish military leader who led the bloody conquest of the Incas of Peru in the 1520s and 30s.

date as you can get, utilizes atomic energy, electronics and other branches of science for terror and death.

Granma. And if Spanish society, which had to suffer that outrage for so long, did not understand it, how do you think that today's world can evaluate the new and no less critical usurpation?

Hart. They say that Einstein died a sad man. No one can deny his grandeur and his extraordinary talent; his great discoveries were utilized to create nuclear explosions and for other very harmful experiments. Such contradictions exist in history and we must learn from them. I don't know whether today's world has a large enough moral conscience and enough education to become aware of the magnitude of this phenomenon and to denounce the modern conquerors.

The essence of the problem is that with each scientific achievement in the history of man there is a dramatic dichotomy: the possibility for enormous progress in human liberation, on the one hand, and the interests of the decadent classes, on the other, which use the achievement to maintain their control. This is the lesson we must learn, and we can gain significant experience from what hap-



Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, October 12: 50,000 Indians, peasants and unionists celebrate "500 years of resistance" and protest army repression.

pened 500 years ago and the centuries that followed.

Medieval obscurantism and reactionary interests in Spain overshadowed the prestige and authority of the great discoveries made

by Christopher Columbus. The looting and despoiling of the indigenous peoples had that result and characterized one of the darkest stages in human history.

Of course, there is still much to study in

that process of the conquest and colonization; among other reasons, because the Latin American peoples emerged out of that process. Once some Spaniards reminded me, jokingly, that their forefathers had stayed in Spain and the ones who had perpetrated those savage acts were my forefathers, who came to America.

But I told them that I preferred to think of our forefathers as men like Father Bartolomé de Las Casas. Because it would not be fair to remember the conquistadores; we should remember those who began the struggle against the conquest, against Spanish colonialism. They were the source of the independence movements of Bolívar,⁴ of Martí.⁵ That's why I want to remember those who fought that oppression, those who continued later to develop the Americas of today, those who defended the ideals of justice and dignity for all.

4. Simón Bolívar, leader of independence struggle which freed six Latin American republics from Spanish rule, from the declaration of Venezuelan independence in 1811 to the liberation in 1825 of what is now Bolivia.

5. José Martí. Cuban patriot and martyr (1853-1895) who led Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain.

A scientific approach to opening of 'New World'

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

The approaching 500th anniversary of the European discovery of the Americas has given rise to a widespread debate on the significance of this event and the colonization of the continent which followed.

In the accompanying interview Cuban minister of culture Armando Hart outlines a materialist approach to this history, explaining the discovery of the Americas as a revolutionary event that "extended human culture into a dimension unknown until that moment."

The clash between the indigenous societies of the Americas and the social system that was beginning to emerge in Europe in Columbus's time — capitalism — is discussed in greater depth by George Novack in the article "The Long View of History," which is contained in his book *Understanding History — Marxist Essays*, published by Pathfinder.

"American history breaks sharply into two fundamentally different epochs," writes Novack. "One belongs to the aboriginal inhabitants, the Indians; the other starts with the coming of white Europeans to America at the end of the fifteenth century."

Novack outlines the level of social development of the Indian societies: "Whoever regards the Indians as insignificant or incompetent has defective historical judgment. Humanity has been raised to its present state by four branches of productive activity. The first is food-gathering, which includes grubbing for roots and berries as well as hunting and fishing. The second is stock-raising. The third is agriculture. The fourth is craftsmanship, graduating into large-scale industry."

The Indians were skillful at hunting, fishing and other methods of food-gathering, he notes. "They were ingenious craftsmen . . . The Incas, for example, made textiles which were extremely fine in texture, coloring and design. They invented and used more different techniques of weaving on their hand looms than any other people in history."

"However, the Indians showed the greatest talent in their development of agriculture. They may even have independently invented soil cultivation."

"We are indebted to the Indians for most of the vegetables that [we have] today . . . Most important are corn, potatoes and beans, but there is in addition a considerable list including tomatoes, chili, pineapples, peanuts, avocados, and . . . tobacco. They knew and used the properties of 400 separate species of plants. No plant cultivated by the American Indians was known to Asia, Europe or Africa prior to the white invasion of America."

"The introduction of the food plants taken from the Indians more than doubled the available food supply of the older continent after

the fifteenth century and became an important factor in the expansion of capitalist civilization. Over half of the agricultural produce raised in the world today comes from plants domesticated by the Indians!"

Novack indicates the high peaks of Indian cultures: "The Incas of the Andes, the Mayans of Guatemala and Yucatan, and the Aztecs of central Mexico, unaffected by European civilization and developed indepen-

ism."

Novack looks more closely at the "incompatible levels of social organization" as the "root cause of the enduring and deadly clash" between the Indian and the European societies:

"Even at its height, Indian life was based upon tribal collectivism and its crude technology. The Indians not only did not have the wheel, iron or the alphabet — they also



Genoa, a key European port city at time of Columbus's voyage. Opening of Americas paved way for rapid development of capitalism, beginning in Holland and England.

dently, constituted the most advanced of the Indian societies. Their cultures embodied the utmost the Indians were able to accomplish within the twenty-five thousand years or so allotted them by history.

"In fact, the Mayans had made mathematical and astronomical calculations more complex and advanced than those of the European invaders. They had independently invented the zero for use in their number system — something even the Greeks and Romans had lacked."

Novack explains that despite these achievements, several major obstacles limited the Indian societies' ability to advance further. They did not have such important domesticated animals as the horse, cow, pig, sheep or water buffalo that had pulled the Asians and Europeans along toward civilization. "Moreover, they did not use the wheel, except for toys, [and] did not know the use of iron or firearms."

This stands in contrast with developments in Europe at the time. "While the most advanced Indians had been moving up from wandering hunters' lives to those of settlers in barbaric communities, the Europeans, themselves an offspring of Asiatic culture, had not only entered class society but had become highly civilized. Their most progressive segments along the Atlantic seaboard were passing over from feudalism to capital-

ism. They lacked the institutions, ideas, feelings and aims of civilized peoples who had been molded by the technology and culture of an acquisitive society."

"These conditions had stamped out a very special kind of human being as the peculiar product of civilization based on private ownership [to whom] it appeared natural and necessary . . . that almost everything on earth should pass into someone's private ownership. Clothes, houses, weapons of war, tools, ships, even human beings themselves, could be bought and sold."

"The doctrine of the European whites was that everything must have its price," Novack writes, "whether it pertains to present happiness or future salvation. This idea remains the guideline for the plutocratic rulers of our day who in their campaigns to dominate the world not only buy up individuals but even whole governments. In their quest for gold and lust for gain, Columbus and the Conquistadors enslaved and killed thousands of West Indians in the islands they discovered. And that was only the beginning."

European society was passing from feudalism to capitalism at the time of Columbus. This was not a smooth process, but was accompanied by violent conflicts as the forces of feudalism on the one side and the rising capitalist class on the other wrestled for supremacy.

As Armando Hart notes, one paradoxical result of the Spanish monarchy's success in colonizing and plundering central and south America was that the development of Spain itself was held back for centuries, while other European nations overtook and displaced Spain as pre-eminent world powers.

The opening of the Americas to European trade and colonization was decisive in those nations for capitalist development, a central part of which was the process Karl Marx called "primitive accumulation" of capital. He described what this entailed in "The Genesis of the Industrial Capitalist": [*Capital*, Volume 1, Chapter 31. Vintage Books, New York, 1977.]

"The discovery of gold and silver in America, the extirpation, enslavement and entombment in mines of the indigenous population of that continent, the beginnings of the conquest and plunder of India, and the conversion of Africa into a preserve for the commercial hunting of blackskins, are all things which characterize the dawn of the era of capitalist production. These idyllic proceedings are the chief moments of primitive accumulation."

Outlining the history of European colonial plunder throughout the world, Marx comments, "The treatment of the indigenous population was, of course, at its most frightful in plantation-colonies set up exclusively for the export trade, such as the West Indies, and in rich and well-populated countries, such as Mexico and India, that were given over to plunder."

"The colonial system ripened trade and navigation as in a hothouse," Marx explains. "The colonies provided a market for the budding manufactures, and a vast increase in accumulation which was guaranteed by the mother country's monopoly of the market. The treasures captured outside Europe by undisguised looting, enslavement and murder flowed back to the mother-country and were turned into capital there."

"The veiled slavery of the wage labourers in Europe," Marx concludes, "needed the unqualified slavery of the New World as its pedestal." All this was necessary "to unleash the 'eternal natural laws' of the capitalist mode of production, to complete the process of separation between the workers and the conditions of their labour, to transform, at one pole, the social means of production and subsistence into capital, and at the opposite pole, the mass of the population into wage-labourers, into the free 'labouring poor', that artificial product of modern history."

"If money, according to Auger, 'comes into the world with a congenital blood-stain on one cheek,' capital comes dripping from head to toe, from every pore, with blood and dirt."

Curtis's lawyers urge access to city files in cop brutality suit

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Attorneys for Mark Curtis have launched a series of legal moves to press forward the union and political activist's civil rights lawsuit against the city's police.

The city of Des Moines is attempting to block access to information needed by Curtis's attorneys and prevent key evidence from being presented on the unionist's behalf.

Curtis was framed up and brutally beaten by city cops in March 1988. He is serving a 25-year sentence on false charges of rape and burglary. The night of his arrest Des Moines police officers Daniel Dusenberry, Charles Wolf, and others took Curtis into a back room in the city jail. There they attempted to interrogate him, called him a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds," and beat him. They broke his cheekbone and opened a wound on his cheek that took 15 stitches to close.

In 1989 Curtis filed suit in federal court charging that Dusenberry, Wolf, other cops whose names he did not know, and the city had violated his constitutional rights in the beating. The suit is scheduled to go to trial November 25.

The court-ordered period for Curtis and the city to pose questions to each other in order to discover information in preparation

for the trial expired October 18. The cops have attempted to evade giving answers to many questions posed by Curtis's attorneys. They have consistently refused to provide Curtis with the names of all the officers who were responsible for his treatment.

In addition, they refuse to turn over critical police files on the March 4, 1988, beating. These files, called "Use of Force" reports, are the reports written that night by the cops.

The city's attorneys have refused to produce almost all the other files the cops have on Curtis. The city claims that since these files were referred to the cops' own Internal Affairs department for review shortly after the beating they are "privileged" and will not be given to Curtis.

On October 21, George Eichhorn and William Kutmus, Curtis's attorneys, filed a motion in federal court asking the judge to compel the city to produce the files and names.

More discovery time needed

At the same time, Eichhorn and Kutmus filed a motion requesting additional time to conduct further discovery.

The need for this was highlighted when Eichhorn attempted to get the city's attorneys to set a time for him to question Wolf, one of the two cops who beat Curtis and a defen-



Militant/Stu Singer

Packinghouse worker Curtis after being bailed out of Des Moines city jail

dant in the case. He was told that Wolf would be on vacation for the month of October and was unavailable.

One month before the close of the discovery period, the city finally responded to written questions Curtis submitted a year earlier. In their answers, the city provided the names of six cops who were involved in handling Curtis while he was held in the city jail. Curtis's lawyers questioned these cops and discovered the names of additional cops involved and the existence of new written documents relating to his treatment by police. But this information was not given until time

had run out for further inquiry.

Finally, if Curtis's attorneys are successful in getting the judge to order the city to produce the crucial files that they have refused to deliver, time will be needed to pursue new evidence that is discovered.

The city responded by taking new steps to attack Curtis's lawsuit. They urged the judge to bar from the trial one of Curtis's central witnesses, Ron Everson. Everson was the first doctor to treat Curtis after his friends bailed him out of jail.

In addition, the city moved to bar all medical records pertaining to the extent of Curtis's injuries from being admitted at the trial.

The city's attorney requested the medical records last year and Curtis's attorney produced them. Last month the city informed Eichhorn that they would not accept the records because they had been provided by Curtis's defense committee from files Curtis had given them for safekeeping at the time of his imprisonment. The city insisted Eichhorn get a second set of records from the hospitals and doctors involved. Although Eichhorn requested the second set of documents from each institution, some had not responded before the October 18 cut-off date for discovery.

Based on this, city attorneys asked the judge to order all these records barred from use at the trial.

A hearing on these issues, and on the city's effort to get the court to dismiss a number of Curtis's charges, is scheduled for November 5 at 8:00 a.m.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is urging activists in the fight against police brutality to attend the hearing.

The fight around the lawsuit has attracted new forces to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Some have become active in the case and participate in the committee's weekly meetings.

For more information or to make a financial contribution to advance the lawsuit, contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Mark Curtis moved to John Bennett Correctional Center

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

On October 22 Mark Curtis was informed by prison authorities at the Iowa Men's Reformatory in Anamosa that he was being moved back to the John Bennett Correctional Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.

This move came two weeks after Curtis was appointed program director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Organization in the Anamosa prison. Curtis had been selected for this post by other prisoners who are the officers of the group.

Upon arriving at John Bennett, Curtis received a warm welcome from prisoners who knew him from his previous stay there as well as from others who were closely following his fight for justice. Curtis had previously been imprisoned at John Bennett from May 1990 through mid-July 1991.

Because of this transfer, Curtis's parole hearing, which was originally scheduled for November 6, has been changed to November 19.

Those wanting to write Mark Curtis can reach him at Box 316, Ft. Madison, Iowa 52627.

Gates, North and Washington's crisis

Continued from front page

what the rulers have failed to halt or effectively counter. This goal can only be accomplished by breaking the resistance among working people to the employer-government offensive against their standard of living and rights. Despite the continued retreat of the labor movement, protest actions, strikes, opposition to police brutality, and demonstrations on defense of abortion rights help show the kind of fights and struggles that the rulers run into in their anti-working class drive.

This has made it more difficult for the U.S. rulers to refurbish the CIA and turn the entire secret police apparatus into the type of repressive force they will need to combat coming struggles by working people both at home and abroad.

CIA covers up facts

When troops in the Sandinista Peoples Army in Nicaragua shot down a contra supply plane carrying Eugene Hasenfus and 10,000 pounds of arms in October 1986, CIA chief William Casey moved rapidly to cover up the facts about the CIA's involvement in this affair.

"Shut it down and clean it up," Casey ordered as he informed North that some heads were going to have to roll in order to prevent the full story about this operation from leaking out. North was willing to take the fall but never expected to face criminal charges for carrying out this White House approved operation.

North details the extreme steps Casey undertook to keep the CIA's true role in this illegal operation secret. Casey ordered the project's special seven-plane air force fleet flown to a remote airfield, buried in a large pit, and blown up. Casey, who died in 1987, hoped that destroying the physical evidence would bury the truth from the U.S. public. However, events turned out differently.

In response to growing outrage, special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh was appointed by Ronald Reagan to investigate the affair. The rulers' failure to simply sweep the scandal under the rug is reflected in the fact that the investigation has continued for the past five years. Many in ruling-class circles hoped that appointing a special prosecutor would bring the affair to a rapid conclusion. But bigger questions continue to be raised about the government's policies abroad as well as its methods of rule at home.

Former top government officials keep getting indicted. In September Clair George, who was the CIA's chief of covert operations in 1986, was indicted for perjury, lying, and obstructing justice.

In October, Elliot Abrams, assistant secre-

tary for Inter-American Affairs during the Reagan administration pleaded guilty to "withholding" information from Congress when he denied that the Reagan administration was helping to covertly fund the contras. Abrams, who throughout the 1980s was one of the most enthusiastic and vocal proponents of Washington's anti-Nicaraguan government campaign, worked closely with North.

Despite all this controversy, Robert Gates, the Bush administration's nominee to head the CIA, appears headed for confirmation. Gates was deputy CIA director under Casey and lent his support to the contra supply operation. In an 11-4 vote on October 18, the Senate Intelligence Committee voiced their approval for Gates' appointment.

The debate over the Gates nomination reflects differences within the ruling class on how best to restore working people's confidence in the CIA. Some, such as New Jersey senator William Bradley, thinks this can best be done without Gates in charge.

"The CIA's credibility desperately needs to be restored after the Casey years," states Bradley. "I think this is a job that can only be done by a new leader who has no association in any way with the abuses of power that took place during the years of 1981-87 [when Casey was director]."

Rulers' credibility crisis

The political crisis facing the rulers has its roots in revelations that arose in the early 1970s in response to the Watergate scandal. This scandal, which got its name from the 1972 wiretapping and burglary carried out by President Richard Nixon's staff against the Democratic National Committee's office in Washington, D.C., raised deep suspicions among working people about how the government functions. It exposed for all to see the role played by the White House in carrying out secret and illegal attacks on individuals and organizations that oppose one or another aspect of government policy, even against those whose differences are confined to the capitalist electoral arena.

The Watergate revelations were simply the tip of the iceberg when it came to Washington's domestic contra operation. In response to the political openings and debate created by the Watergate affair, the Socialist Workers Party filed a lawsuit against the U.S. president, the FBI, CIA, and other police agencies. The 1973 suit charged that the government had carried out decades of illegal spying, harassment, and disruption plots against the party. Through the course of this historic 15-year legal battle, hundreds of thousands of pages from secret FBI and CIA government documents were obtained.

Leading up to World War II, the U.S. rulers expanded and centralized federal police power and involved the FBI in political operations. In 1947, coming out of the war, the Democratic administration of Harry Truman organized the CIA as a vehicle to spy on and attempt to disrupt struggles waged by working people at home and abroad.

Issues raised in the SWP's lawsuit helped to expose the true totalitarian kernel inherent in capitalist political rule, even in countries like the United States where democratic political institutions still exist. These include the use of secret police, informers, agents provocateurs, frame-ups, and disruption efforts against struggles threatening the capitalists' political power.

Questions raised through the course of this suit get at the heart of how the U.S. government functions. Can the rule of law be suspended in the name of national security? Are the president, the attorney general, the CIA, and the FBI above the law? Can the Bill of Rights be suspended to hound and disrupt legal political organizations on the basis of the president's authority? Prominent government spokespeople, just like Oliver North does today, answered yes. In August 1986 the judge in the SWP case ruled that such activities were a violation of the right to privacy and freedom of association, much to the dismay of the government.

This legal ruling didn't settle the issues involved. The government fought for the right to continue to use millions of pages of illegally obtained documents. Ten government agencies filed affidavits arguing that "national security" would be adversely affected if an injunction barring access to these documents was issued. In August 1987, the judge ruled against the government.

The Iran-contra affair was publicly disclosed in November 1986, providing another clear case of the extent to which government power had been usurped and concentrated within the executive branch. This trend has had bipartisan support. Congressional critics have confined their position to simply demanding that Congress be consulted as a more effective way of carrying out White House policies.

As world capitalism enters a period of deepening economic and social crisis, the U.S. rulers will be forced to adopt more authoritarian methods of political rule. The secret government within the formally elected government will increasingly become the real decision-making power. All this is aimed at preparing the capitalists to combat the working class. Through major battles workers will forge a movement capable of challenging the capitalist class for political power.

What Duke vote shows about U.S. politics

Continued from front page

particularly aimed at the middle class as well as privileged layers of the working class whose standard of living has been steadily eroded due to the economic crisis and who are increasingly frustrated by the inability of any politicians in the two parties to present a solution to it.

Duke has a radical right-wing appeal. He does more than talk about these problems. Using demagoguery he presents proposals he says will resolve the problems. At his rallies, Duke rails against affirmative action, calls for drug testing of tenants living in public housing, and for cash payments to mothers on welfare who accept contraceptive implants.

Duke's campaign blames the social and economic problems on a government bureaucracy whose spending is out of control and that supposedly supports a "rising welfare underclass." The Republican candidate claims that this "underclass" is responsible for the growing social ills in the United States, from unemployment to crime. His proposals are racist in that he attacks the most exploited and oppressed layers of the working class that are disproportionately made up of Blacks and immigrants.

Seeks to divide working class

Duke's proposals seek to utilize and deepen the divisions within the working class that are perpetuated under capitalism: between the employed and unemployed, Blacks and whites, and men and women.

David Duke's approach to resolving the social problems and the declining economy is not outside the framework of the Republican Party. It is exactly the course of not only the Republican, but the Democratic party. What is important about David Duke's past activity in the KKK and a neo-Nazi organization is that it does not discredit him or prevent him from functioning in capitalist politics. This reflects just how far to the right U.S. politics has moved. Many of his campaign proposals are taken directly from the White House itself. When speaking in opposition to quotas to enforce affirmative action hiring measures, for example, Duke echoes President Bush. "I believe in the right to be judged on your merits and not on your race," he says.

Workers in the United States are the victims of government policies attacking their wages, working conditions, and rights. Duke supports these attacks and, in light of the retreat of the labor movement, proposes taking further action against the most vul-

nerable layers of the working class. This is why the centerpiece of his campaign is to attack all forms of affirmative action — from hiring quotas to benefits for workers who are unemployed.

The ongoing retreat of the labor movement not only allows the rightward shift in the rulers' course to go unopposed, but has led to polarization within the working class. Some workers get drawn into accepting aspects of the rightist solutions such as those advanced by Duke.

Duke's successes have provoked a discussion in the U.S. ruling class that is reflected in the pages of the big-business newspapers.

The October 22 *Wall Street Journal* sharply blamed liberalism for the rise of David Duke. On issues ranging from crime to quotas, "the only way such liberals can win is to play the race card and intimidate opponents into silence," says the *Journal*. Duke's success "shows that declaring political issues off-limits for discussion only allows demagogues to exploit them to their advantage."

The article warns that the only way to "contain David Duke is not merely to denounce him, but for responsible leaders to face squarely the myriad grievances of his supporters."

Columnist Anthony Lewis points out in the *New York Times* that millions of people in the United States, including middle-class layers, are suffering from the recession. With no recovery in sight, this breeds a new "politics of resentment" which Duke



David Duke at campaign event

is able to tap.

Duke has "remodeled himself in the image of the contemporary Republican Party," writes Lewis. Duke, he points out, talks to his audiences about affirmative action, quotas, welfare abuse, and crime, employing "the same rhetoric . . . used by President Bush and his people. It can be — it often is — a genteel code to evoke anti-black feelings."

Lewis argues that the way to deal with the rise of "resentment politics" is for the Democrats to offer an alternative along the lines of Franklin Roosevelt, "as times look more like 1932." Lewis hopes that David Duke's showing will convince New York governor Mario Cuomo to run for U.S. president.

Neither of these two perspectives will defeat Duke. The "respectable" Republicans the *Wall Street Journal* calls upon to address people's grievances offer fundamentally the same anti-working-class solutions as Duke. So do politicians like Cuomo, who is leading the charge to making the working people of New York pay for the state's "budget crisis."

It is the labor movement that has the most at stake in understanding what the Louisiana

primaries reflect about U.S. politics.

The labor movement's continued support to the Democrats and Republicans, as these capitalist parties shift to the right, merely opens up working people to solutions posed by demagogues like Duke. Remaining within the bounds of what won't "bust the budget" or what will keep "our" company profitable is a deadly trap that, if not rejected, will lead the labor movement to disaster.

The Duke phenomenon is a clear indication of the need for labor to organize itself to take action in its own interests — separate and apart from the Democrats, Republicans or any others who serve the employing class.

A fighting labor movement that uncompromisingly champions the interests of all workers would demand affirmative action measures and a shorter workweek with no cut in pay. In this fight — and the day-to-day struggles with the employers — the unions would find a way to construct a political instrument that could advance the fight against Dukeism: a labor party. Such a party would mark a giant step forward for labor in the struggle for a government of workers and farmers.

Fund meetings help close gap

As we go to press: More than \$11,500 was collected at Party-Building Fund meetings held on October 26 and 27 in Atlanta, Boston, Birmingham, Detroit, Greensboro, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. The meetings also won many new contributors to the fund. Supporters in every city need to mail in contributions today to help reach the goal of being on schedule on next week's scoreboard. The final Party-Building fund meetings will be held November 2 in Morgantown and November 9 in Cleveland.

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

Last week, more than \$15,500 was collected toward the \$150,000 Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund, the largest collection yet. This is a step in the right direction. Last week we were 13 percent behind schedule; now fund supporters have closed the gap to within 8 percent. With an effort in every city involved in the drive, we can get on target by the first week of November.

The Party-Building Fund meetings being held across the country have been a big boost to the effort. New contributors have pitched in at each meeting.

A payment of \$1,400 came from contributors in Baltimore, putting them on schedule this week. Local fund director John Gaige reports that the fund meeting there was "a big success" and that one young fighter decided to join the Young Socialist Alliance. Gaige reports that, based on the success of the meeting, supporters are discussing plans for a social to raise more money and reach out for more contributors.

Supporters in Newark are also leading the way by getting on schedule this week. Supporters there hosted a Party-Building

whom have recently joined the YSA. They participated in a lively political discussion and stayed for a social after the meeting.

Several auto workers in St. Louis decided to increase their contributions to the fund because they saw it as one of the best ways to reach out to fellow fighters around the world with the *Militant* and revolutionary literature published by Pathfinder. In addition to the hundreds of dollars already pledged to the Party-Building Fund, they contributed the bonuses they had just received at work. This puts St. Louis supporters at the top of the chart.

All supporters of the fund face a big challenge in the coming weeks: to collect and send in the payments needed to get the drive on schedule and keep it on schedule. This is the only way to ensure that the nearly \$160,000 pledged will be collected by December 15.

Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
St. Louis	5,500	3,965	72%
Greensboro*	2,300	1,415	62%
Newark	9,700	5,980	62%
Atlanta	5,500	3,076	60%
Baltimore	3,000	1,771	59%
New York	16,300	9,646	59%
Twin Cities	8,300	4,846	58%
San Francisco	10,000	5,790	58%
Detroit	8,500	4,885	57%
Omaha	3,000	1,515	50%
Miami	2,400	1,167	49%
Houston	4,800	2,305	48%
Pittsburgh	5,500	2,635	48%
Chicago	8,000	3,650	46%
Boston*	5,500	2,430	44%
San Diego	2,000	890	44%
Washington, D.C.	6,000	2,190	36%
Salt Lake City	6,500	2,295	35%
Des Moines	3,525	1,205	34%
Philadelphia	5,000	1,645	33%
Birmingham	5,500	1,760	32%
Seattle	5,000	1,516	30%
Los Angeles	15,000	3,840	26%
Morgantown	2,800	645	23%
Cleveland	3,000	415	14%
Other U.S.	4,815	4,228	88%
International	2,130	440	21%
Total	159,570	76,147	51%
Should be	88,235	59%	
*Indicates raised goal			

1991 Party-Building Fund

Collected: \$76,150 Goal: \$150,000



Fund meeting October 19, at which \$2,150 was collected. The meeting featured a talk by James Warren, a National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and the party's mayoral candidate in the 1990 Chicago elections. The event provided an important political forum for workers and youth who want to chart a winning strategy in the fight against the offensive by the bosses and their government.

Roni McCann, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, was the featured speaker at the October 19 meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. McCann reports that fund supporters there hosted a successful meeting. They collected \$2,560 and several new pledges to the fund were made. A number of young fighters attended, several of

I pledge: \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$ Other to the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. Send checks or money orders to Socialist Workers 1991 Party-Building Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Cuba at a Crossroads. Speaker: José Antonio Arbesú, Chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. Thurs., Nov. 14. World Affairs Council, 312 Sutter St. Reception, 5 p.m.; program, 5:45 p.m. Donation: \$6 for members, \$9 for nonmembers. Co-sponsors: World Affairs Council, Commonwealth Club of California. Sat., Nov. 16. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. 7 p.m. Donation: \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Co-sponsors: Hands Off Cuba Coalition, Venceremos Brigade. Tel: Global Exchange. (415) 255-7296.

KANSAS

Wichita

A Celebration of Choice. Help organize

to protect reproductive freedom and women's health services in Wichita. Speakers, open mike, food, music. Bring food to share if you wish. Sun., Nov. 3, 1-5 p.m. Linwood Park Shelter House, 1700 S Hydraulic. Sponsor: Freedom of Choice Action League.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Meeting to celebrate the life of Rich Cahalane. Rich Cahalane, a longtime member of the Socialist Workers Party, died in Boston on October 27. There will be a meeting in celebration of his life and contributions to the working-class movement Saturday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

JUSTICE FOR MARK CURTIS — FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY

Friday, November 8, 7.30 p.m.
Borough of Manhattan Community College,

Room N-404, 199 Chambers Street (5 blocks North of World Trade Center)

Speakers: **Stu Singer**, Former coordinator of Mark Curtis Defense Committee.
Venus Hannah, mother of youth slain by New Jersey police. **Maureen Holder**, vice president of International Association of Machinists, Local 2656*.
Chris Hoeppner, National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

* Organizations listed for identification only.

Reception, 6:30 p.m. Video showing, *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis* by Hollywood film director Nick Castle.

New York Supporters of Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Tel: (212) 675-6740.

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation should attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Nelson Mandela's Visit to Cuba. Video. Introduced by Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party, antiapartheid activist. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Sexual Harassment: What It Is and How to Fight It. Panel Discussion. Sat. Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

The Migrants. A video documentary showing superexploitation of immigrant farmworkers in south Florida's sugarcane fields. Speaker from Belle Glade, Florida. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Capitalist Crisis and the Fight for Independent Labor Political Action. Speaker: Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Des Moines, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Crisis in the Middle East: What is the Road Forward for the Palestinian People. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Open House. Following Pro-Choice Day of Activities to defend abortion rights. Sat., Nov. 2, 3-6 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

Lessons of Wichita and the Fight for Abortion Rights Today. Estelle Debates, co-chairperson, Young Socialist Alliance, staff writer

Noted Cuban economist Carlos Tablada begins U.S. speaking tour

Continued from front page

Tablada will begin his tour in Illinois, where he will speak at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. The La Raza Movement, La Casa Cultural Latina, and others are sponsoring the talks.

The next day he will be at DePaul University in Chicago at the invitation of Professor Félix Masud-Piloto, the Center for Latin American Research, and the Confederation of Latin American Students, among others. Two days later he will address a meeting at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Afterwards Tablada will go to Washington, D.C. There he has been invited to speak at American University by the Graduate Students Council in the School of International Studies and the Graduate Student Union in the Department of Economics. At Howard University, he will be sponsored by the Political Science and Sociology/Anthropology departments, as well as the Caribbean Students Association.

Miami is his last stop where he will speak at Florida International University, sponsored by Andrew Gottlieb, president of the National Education Association at FIU.

Tablada's current itinerary includes Champaign-Urbana, Illinois; Chicago; Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Washington, D.C. In California he will speak in Riverside, Los Angeles, Glendale, and Santa Barbara. Colleges in Albany, New York; New Haven, Connecticut; New York City; New Paltz, New York; Philadelphia; Newark; Delaware; and Miami are also slated for engagements with Tablada.

For more information contact the Faculty Ad Hoc Committee for Tablada Tour, c/o Center for Studies of Social Change, New School for Social Research, 64 University Pl., 4th fl., New York, NY 10003; tel: (212) 229-5312.

for the *Militant* and reporter for events in Wichita. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Sexual Harassment: An Issue for Working People. Panel Discussion. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Celebrate the 74th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution: Prospects for Communism Today. Speaker: Doug Jenness, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Women's Oppression: From Its Historic Roots to the Struggle for Equality Today. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

What's Behind the Vote for David Duke?

Strikes and protests in France

Continued from front page

Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT, General Federation of Labor) — hundreds of thousands of workers stopped work. FO leader Marc Blondel said that more than 3 million will be unemployed in France by 1992 unless there is an upturn in the economy.

Workers at the international airline UTA joined the strike to protest the planned absorption of UTA into Air France. Another section of airline workers — at Air Inter, which is a section of Air France — also struck in opposition to the plans to restructure Air France.

For more than three weeks hundreds of nurses camped outside the Ministry of Health in Paris demanding raises, shorter hours, and large-scale hiring of nurses. They sought a 35-hour week for those working days, 32 hours for night workers, and the training and hiring of 20,000 more nurses. Their actions included a series of demonstrations and a strike that saw 30 percent of nurses stop work beginning October 23.

20,000 nurses demonstrate

A large demonstration of nurses, which was estimated by the press at 20,000 and by organizers at 50,000, marched through Paris streets October 22 in support of these demands. Behind a banner reading, "To those who care for others, Mitterrand responds with violence" they chanted, "Ni bonne, ni nonne, ni conne!" (We're neither maids, nor nuns, nor fools.) Cops had attacked a nurses march October 17 with tear gas and fire hoses, badly injuring two nurses.

Since holding a mass demonstration in Paris September 29, farmers across France have continued daily actions. Visits by

Speakers: Derek Bracey, Meryl Lynn Farber, Angel Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party candidates for New York City Council. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Who Profits? How Do We Fight It? Panel discussion. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

Haiti. No to the Coup. U.S. Hands Off! Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Abortion Rights Under Attack. Speaker: Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party, participant in Cincinnati Planned Parenthood Clinic Defense. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

government ministers to rural areas have been blocked, protests held at buildings of local authorities, and truckloads of imported agricultural produce destroyed.

Thousands of small farmers in France face the prospect of being driven from their land in the near future. Much of the fire of their protests has been directed against the importation of meat, wine and other produce. This echoes the protectionist line of the capitalist farmers and big monopoly traders who seek to protect massive export subsidies, little of which goes to working farmers. Some farmers have sought to link up with other working people taking action in defense of their interests. Farmers in the region around Cléon, for example, brought food to the Renault strikers. The strikers announced they would send a delegation to a local meeting of the Fédération Paysanne (Peasant Federation), a small farmers' organization to discuss farmers' problems with them.

Confronted with protests on several fronts, the government of President François Mitterrand responded by announcing substantial concessions to farmers, nurses, and other civil servants. The offers included a 6.5 percent wage hike for government workers, which the parliamentary opposition described as "a time bomb which could wreck the economy," according to the London *Guardian*.

Mitterrand offered farmers a guaranteed retirement income at age 55, an end to taxes on crops grown for fuel, and reduced land and inheritance taxes. He also promised to reinforce controls on imported meat.

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AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The 1917 Russian Revolution: Its Contribution to the Forward March of Working People. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 1, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

London

How Far We Slaves Have Come. Celebrate publication of a new Pathfinder collection of speeches by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro. Speaker: Rich Palser, Communist League. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Manchester

By Any Means Necessary. Malcolm X video. Speaker and discussion. Sat., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839-1766.

CANADA

Montreal

The Crisis of Canadian Capitalism and the Fight for Independent Working-Class Political Action. Communist League election rally. Speaker: Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate in Nov. 3 municipal by-election in Montreal riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent (near Beaubien). Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Forum ouvrier militant. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Defend the Haitian People. Speaker: Al Cooper, visited Haiti in 1989. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Working Farmers Fight to Survive. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League candidate. Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary, Communist League. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

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Lenin's Fight Against Stalinism. Sat., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St. Donation: \$2. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Socialist Workers 1991 Fund Events

WEST VIRGINIA

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The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism Today. Speaker: Frank Forrestal. Sat., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

OHIO

Cleveland

The World Capitalist Crisis, Stalinism, and the Fight for Socialism Today. Sat., Nov. 9, 7 p.m. 1863 W 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

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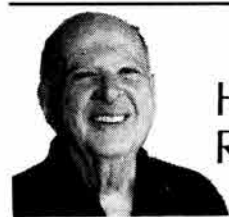
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—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Living proof — "Was it worth it? You bet it was!" — From a rap on the Gulf war by "Stormin' Norman"



Harry Ring

Schwarzkopf. He does three or four lecture gigs a month for \$50,000 to \$80,000 apiece. His ghosted autobiography will fetch up to \$6 million.

Tough situation — "I lost everything — my dacha, my car and driver and my salary. Now I'm un-

employed and I have to look for work. It was too severe for what I did." — Alexei Volentsev, who was dumped as party boss in the Soviet city of Vladivostok for failing to oppose the aborted coup.

P.S., not to worry — A Vladivostok paper notes that an "A. Volentsev" has been appointed local rep of the All-Union Fund for the Protection of the Unemployed. It will assertedly establish companies to employ the jobless.

Free-market portrait — "Factory workers are complaining about how much money people make, but it's the same all over the world. If you work hard and are smart, you

should get ahead. If you're lazy, you deserve what you got." — Gennady Tizhin, 28, an up-and-coming Soviet used car dealer.

Head fixers — The psychiatric division of National Medical Enterprises is under fire in various areas for fraudulent practices. Charges include overbilling or charging for services not provided; misdiagnosing patients to keep them in the hospital longer; kidnapping patients and committing them to mental institutions to milk their insurance.

National health care, anyone? — Responding to insurance company beefs, the hospital industry

has lowered room costs — and balanced things out by upping the cost of supplies. Like, at Humana, the industry biggie, a patient will pay \$44.90 for an 81-cent container of saline solution; \$118 for a \$5.74 heating pad; \$103.65 for an \$8.35 pair of crutches — plus the rubber tips and arm pads.

Take that — Melvyn Paisley, a former assistant secretary of the Navy, pleaded guilty to corruption charges. He's one of 52 convicted so far in an ongoing probe of bribery by contractors. Paisley, who admitted accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars, got the stiffest sentence yet — four years.

The enforcers — A state inspector told a California legislative committee that regulation of the funeral industry is "a joke." He told of reporting to his boss that a mortuary official had stopped an inspection by threatening "to kill me." Responded his boss, "Well, you better not go back to that place."

See ya later — According to the *Los Angeles Times*, employers will stiffen their drive to curb wage increases and this will further impede the current "recovery." However, the paper advises, economists feel that payroll-trimming "could pave the way for a moderate but long-lasting economic rebound later in the decade."

Utah socialist wins spot in city council runoff



Militant/Dave Wulp

Steelworkers member Nancy Boyasko

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SALT LAKE CITY — "Socialist candidate brings world issues to Salt Lake City race," says the headline of a *Deseret News* article on Nancy Boyasko, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council.

Boyasko is a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and works at the Kennecott Copper refinery. She is a long-time union and political activist in the city.

Three socialist candidates ran an aggressive campaign in the city's nonpartisan primary elections here. Mayoral candidate Pat Grogan, who works at the Phillips oil refinery and is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, received extensive coverage of her campaign on radio, television, and in the newspapers. She received 423 votes, 1.7 percent of the total. Dave Salner, a member of the USWA, ran on the Socialist Workers Party ticket for city council District 2 and received 151 votes, 7.3 percent of the total.

Boyasko was the only candidate of the three to get enough votes to make it onto the November 5 ballot. She finished second among three candidates in District 4, getting 924 votes, 36 percent of the total.

Boyasko's campaign is receiving wide attention from working people and the media.

She is using her campaign to explain the worsening conditions facing working people in this city and around the world, and to point to a perspective for fighting back.

"The big-business scramble for profits means working people worldwide face more wars over oil, more recessions, and more attacks on our democratic rights," her platform explains. "This is the stark reality today because capitalism is a system in crisis."

Several supporters of Boyasko's campaign have suggested that she concentrate primarily on local issues. This was a theme of the discussion at the USWA Sub-district 5 Legislation and Education Committee meeting.

While expressing support for some of the ideas raised by Boyasko, such as support for the fight against apartheid and the need for an independent labor party, many of the labor officials urged her to "run a serious campaign, stick to the local issues, and get elected."

"My campaign is very serious," Boyasko said. The problems confronting

working people in Salt Lake City are tied to the conditions facing working people around the world. Like earlier generations, we'll need to fight for our standard of living and rights.

"I see my campaign as part of the fight for jobs and health care, for affirmative action and abortion rights, for housing for the homeless, for a clean environment and safe workplaces, and for an end to police brutality. Building unity among working people and a movement in the streets around these important issues is what my campaign is all about."

As the *Deseret News* article explained it, "Boyasko may appear more interested in changing the world than in fixing potholes, but she is a candidate who must be taken seriously."

The *Salt Lake Tribune* and several radio stations have set up interviews with her. She has also been invited to speak before the Communication Workers of America and at the University of Utah. Boyasko plans to campaign at many plant gates in the city as well as local high schools.

Rally celebrates Pathfinder bookshop grand opening in Sheffield, England

BY MARK WEINSTEIN AND JOHN SMITH

SHEFFIELD, England — One hundred people gathered at Burngreave Vestry Hall, adjacent to the Sheffield Pathfinder Bookshop, to celebrate the bookshop's opening October 12.

Preceding the social event — which featured songs from North Staffs Miners' Wives Action Group — several speakers discussed how making Pathfinder books available to working people and youth was an important contribution toward understanding and acting in the world today.

"I'm proud to have been one of the 36 volunteers who built the Pathfinder Bookshop," said Debra Jacobs. "Volunteers with different backgrounds and skills worked together," transforming the empty building into the new store. "Capitalism has taught me that I can't do certain things. For the few weeks that I worked building the bookshop, I learned all the things that I can do. I'd say that for all of us who volunteered, we changed ourselves through our work."

Introducing Miguel Martinez Moles, political counsellor at the Cuban Embassy in London, chair Pete Clifford explained the long association between Pathfinder and the Cuban revolution. In 1960 Pathfinder's predecessor published *The Truth About Cuba*.

Events sponsored by Pathfinder "have always been remarkable occasions and hold a great significance for all of us," Martinez said. He pointed out that the bookshop is a place to "find the essential theoretical tools to the socialist path." The Cuban diplomat reviewed challenges facing Cuba today and the 4th congress of the Cuban Communist Party.

Communist League leader Marcella Fitzgerald said, "We, along with other revolutionary-minded people, draw on the books published by Pathfinder more and more. In every fight we are involved in, in every

struggle we are waging, Pathfinder books are needed in order for each of us to be fighters." Pointing to the civil war in Yugoslavia, social and political instability in Haiti and Zaire, and the deepening social crisis in Britain, she said, "What we are seeing is the increasing instability of the old declining imperialist world order. As it declines, the rulers become more desperate. Big class battles are on the agenda. These struggles are guaranteed but victories for working people are not. Victories such as the Cuban revolution are determined by the kind of leadership that is forged by working people themselves."

Another featured speaker was George Silcott, representing the Tottenham 3 Families Campaign for Justice. The three were framed up for the death of a policeman during protests against police brutality in London. Paul Galloway, a miner at Thoresby colliery in Nottinghamshire also spoke.

Norton Sandler, Promotions and Business Director of Pathfinder in New York, began his remarks by explaining that the mobilizations by working people to bring down the August coup in the Soviet Union "show for the first time in six decades the possibility of the continuation of the Russian Revolution, which involved millions of people. Reviewing the attacks on workers and farmers around the globe, he said, "Working people will respond to these attacks, and that's where Pathfinder fits in. One of the great lies is that workers are not interested in books. Nothing will stop fighting workers from finding their way to the weapons that will help them in their struggle."

Pete Clifford concluded with a financial appeal. He said 250 coworkers of volunteers in the construction project contributed £550 [one British pound = \$1.70] towards the renovation. An appeal for contributions raised £1,350, £150 over the goal for the event.

THE MILITANT
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PHILADELPHIA — An important local campaign in this city is that of William R. Davis for State Senate. Davis is running on a black power program for the Real People's Party and he is supported by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Congress of Racial Equality and other ghetto-based civil rights groups.

Davis has been active as a ghetto organizer, in protests against police brutality and he is an outspoken critic of the Vietnam war.

"No one protects our children from the useless education they receive in overcrowded schools," [his campaign] leaflet states in part. "No one protects us from high rents and rat-infested 'Negro' housing. No one has protected us from low wages or no jobs, or the high cost of rotten meat!"

"The big, rich government that protects everybody except us is owned by the same phony Democrats and Republicans we have always voted for and only see at election time. For 100 years, Republicans and Democrats have been promising a better world for black people, and every day for 100 years they have broken that promise."

"The reasons are obvious: THE REPUBLICANS AND THE DEMOCRATS ARE PARTIES CREATED TO SUSTAIN AND SERVE WHITE POWER!"

"Black people need POWER in the government, because it is the government that holds the key to our problems... Did any demonstration address itself to the feelings of black mothers when the government packed up all our 19-year-old black youths, and sent them to Vietnam to die, because the 'colored' schools had given them just enough education to get drafted, but not enough to go to college?"

"The answer is no! But the government could solve the problem of black education tomorrow, if it was forced to do so. AND

WE MUST BE THE FORCE SO THAT ALL OUR PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED TO OUR LIKING! We need power to do this! Political power! The power of a unified, black political force—BLACK POWER!"

THE MILITANT
Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

November 8, 1941

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Nov. 3 — The two witnesses introduced by the prosecution in yesterday's proceedings of the federal government's 'seditious conspiracy' trial against 28 members of the Socialist Workers Party and of the drivers' Local 544-CIO of Minneapolis, proved more of an embarrassment than an asset to the case the government is trying to build up.

The first of these witnesses on the stand was Thomas V. Smith, former secretary-treasurer of the Omaha (Nebraska) Teamsters Union, Local 544. Smith testified that he joined the Socialist Workers Party in the spring of 1940.

On direct questioning of Smith, prosecution sought to build up a picture of "outsiders" like Farrell Dobbs, Carlos Hudson, and Vincent Dunne, coming into Omaha to dictate the affairs of the local union.

Smith described the work of defendant Farrell Dobbs first as Secretary of the 11-state North Central Area Committee, and then as International Representative of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Asked why Farrell Dobbs resigned from his post as International Representative, Smith said that the International Office in Indianapolis had ordered Dobbs to settle a Kansas City taxicab strike on any terms and that Dobbs had refused to sell out the workers.

"I went to Minneapolis and saw the good work of Local 544 and how it was helping the smaller locals. I saw that the leaders of Local 544 were labor-minded and were for the poor. So I thought that if the Socialist Workers Party puts out people like that it was good enough for me."

Challenges facing labor

Recent developments in U.S. politics sharply pose the dangers facing working people if the labor movement remains within the framework of the Democratic and Republican parties — the parties of the ruling rich.

The hearing that David Duke's radical right-wing appeal has received in the Louisiana governor's race is a sign of the bipartisan shift to the right in capitalist politics.

Despite the controversy surrounding the Iran-contra scandal, Robert Gates, Bush's nominee to head the CIA, appears headed for confirmation.

Both big-business parties haggle in Washington over how few weeks of unemployment compensation they will "grant" working people. Meanwhile unemployment, malnutrition among children, deteriorating health care, and the number of people living in poverty are all on the rise.

The 1974-75 world capitalist recession signaled the end of capitalism's ability to grant significant concessions to working people. This is the basis for the bipartisan agreement to attack the rights and standard of living of the working class at home, pushing capitalist politics more and more to the right.

In the face of this assault the trade union officialdom continues to lead a retreat of the labor movement. Top labor officials refuse to organize any fight to defend the interests of working people. They maintain their class-collaborationist course by identifying labor's interests with what is good for "America," "our" industry, and "our" company.

This opens a dangerous leadership vacuum, allowing radical right-wing appeals to gain a hearing among the middle class and layers of the working class.

Despite the continued retreat of the labor movement, the ruling rich have run into resistance every time they have pushed too hard to slash wages, bust unions, or do away with hard-won democratic rights. Recent demonstrations against police brutality, in defense of abortion rights, and in support of gay rights, as well as strikes in the last few years, show the kind of fights that can break out as working people and youth

try to find ways to hold back the unremitting offensive.

Divisions within the ruling class, reflected in the Iran-contra debate, show that the employers and their government have not succeeded in defeating the working class by breaking the unions or driving working people out of political life. They have not accomplished what they need to do in order to shore up their declining profit rates and avert sharpening inter-imperialist competition.

The only way to effectively fight the employer-government assault is for the labor movement to break out of the framework of what "our" company can't afford or what will not "bust the budget." Instead working people must start with what they can't afford to continue to have happen to them regardless of the profits and prerogatives of big business.

Unions must break from capitalist politics and take the road of independent working-class political action.

The labor movement should mobilize working people to demand extension of unemployment compensation at union wages to all workers without jobs. This is an elementary affirmative action demand that would benefit the most oppressed and exploited layers of the working class. It should be raised along with the demand for affirmative action in hiring and education. Unions should demand a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, to spread the available work.

The bipartisan assault on our standard of living and democratic rights not only requires building independent organizations of working people that fight around economic questions — the trade unions. It necessitates a response on the political level as well. Through the struggles that develop, working people will see the need to organize a labor party based on the unions that would contend for governmental power with the parties of the ruling rich.

This would be a step in a revolutionary struggle towards a government of workers and farmers that would lead the fight to overthrow capitalism and open the road to socialism.

Halt violence in South Africa

In spite of a peace accord signed two months ago between representatives of the African National Congress (ANC), the ruling National Party, and the Inkatha Freedom Party the wave of killings in South Africa continues. Thirty-three ANC leaders have been murdered in the past three months. The random killings are aimed at sowing terror among those who seek to advance the struggle against apartheid.

The message of those promoting the violence was made unmistakably clear by the gunning down of 20 people attending the funeral of a prominent ANC supporter: Stay away! Don't get involved!

The ANC has been pushing to win a commitment from all political forces in the country to oppose this violence so as to politically isolate those responsible. The September 14 peace accord was a victory in this respect.

President F.W. de Klerk's regime denies responsibility for the violence, seeking to portray it as the result of "tribal" infighting between Blacks. But evidence of secret police involvement in encouraging, helping organize, and covering up for those guilty of the killings continues to emerge. As the Congress of South African Trade Unions points out, only a handful of those carrying out the attacks have been arrested.

The fact that a mere five successful prosecutions have been carried through, out of 5,000 politically related murders in recent years, graphically shows the attitude of the police toward those responsible for this violence. If it wished, the de Klerk government could conduct a far-reaching hunt within the police and security forces to root out those involved.

The ANC's fight to expose and bring an end to police and military involvement in the continuing violence is central to the prospects for real mass mobilizations of the South African people.

The government also continues to reject ANC proposals calling for the immediate establishment of an interim government to supervise the election of a constituent assembly. The ANC has long demanded that such an assembly be elected by universal suffrage to produce a new constitution for the country, opening the door to the establishment of a nonracial, democratic, South African republic.

The government instead plans to remain in power while discussions between various political parties are held on a new constitution. This means the government wants to be "both referee and player," ANC leaders have pointed out.

The beneficiaries of the apartheid system — South Africa's ruling rich — hope that by slowing the drive to a republic and unleashing continued violence against the revolutionary democratic movement, they can block wider struggles and mobilizations by workers and peasants.

The ANC's call for the government to take serious steps to end the violence and in favor of a constituent assembly are key demands deserving support from all opponents of apartheid around the world.

Only by defending and extending the hard-won political space conquered in the struggle so far can millions be drawn into the kind of revolutionary battles needed to uproot the crime against humanity that is apartheid.

Defending abortion rights

Operation Rescue has issued a call for coordinated actions against abortion clinics November 17-23. Billed "National Days of Rescue," the right-wing mobilizations will include clinic blockades, rallies, and pickets.

Broad mobilizations by the labor movement, women's rights groups, and other organizations are needed to counter the rightist actions and to protest continued government assaults on a woman's right to choose abortion.

Recent actions by supporters of abortion rights show that there is greater awareness of the need for and determination to organize such mobilizations.

Five thousand people marched in New York City in September to defend abortion rights. More recently hundreds have rallied in defense of abortion clinics in Boston, Cincinnati, and other cities.

These protests show that the majority sentiment in favor of a woman's right to choose abortion can be tapped to outmobilize and politically isolate the rightist forces.

The assaults on abortion clinics come in the context of a government offensive that has especially targeted access to abortion by working-class women.

In 1976, three years after the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion, the Hyde Amendment was

passed. This measure prohibits women from using Medicaid funds to obtain abortions.

Several state governments have attempted to limit access to abortion by passing parental and spousal consent laws. Last May the Supreme Court upheld the "gag rule" prohibiting family planning clinics that receive federal funding from discussing abortion with patients.

On October 21 a federal appeals court upheld most provisions of Pennsylvania's abortion law, one of the most restrictive in the country. Women must submit to "pre-abortion counseling" and then wait 24 hours before having an abortion. The law also requires "parental consent" before women under 18 years of age can obtain an abortion.

Youth and all working people have a real stake in organizing and participating in broad mobilizations to defend abortion rights.

Defense of a woman's right to choose abortion is a central issue facing the labor movement. When the ruling rich deny or chip away at a woman's right to control her own body, they block the ability of women to fight for full participation and equality in social and political life. The fight for women's rights is essential in unifying working people and strengthening the labor movement.

This column is devoted to a discussion with our readers — printing remarks, questions, suggestions, and other comments sent to the *Militant*. Where possible we will take up issues raised in notes and letters as a way to help clarify and expand on the coverage in the paper.

Albert Fried-Cassorla from Melrose Park, Pennsylvania, writes that he appreciated Doug Jenness's series on the situation facing working farmers and the explanation of why falling into supporting either the free trade or the protectionism advanced by wings of the capitalist class is a deadly trap.

He says he was surprised when he got to the end of the article where Jenness advocates a workers' and farmers' government. Why farmers? he asks. Aren't there other small businesspeople who have as much social weight as working farmers? Why not a workers' and truckers' government, for example?

In his articles, Jenness explains how income from farming remains too low to enable working farmers to meet the rising costs of land, equipment, seeds, fuel, fertilizer, and loans. The squeeze on these debt slaves is being tightened by the

FROM OUR READERS

banks, land speculators, and real estate sharks; as well as by the seed, fertilizer, food processing, farm equipment, and energy monopolies.

The most thorough explanation of the questions Fried-Cassorla raises is presented in *New International* no. 4. It contains a series of articles on the historic conquests of the communist movement in recognizing the strategic alliance that must be forged among the producers in order to successfully conclude an anti-capitalist revolution and open the door to the fight for socialism.

In the article "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers," Jenness explains that the decline in the number of working farmers does not correspond to a lessening of their social weight.

"A careful look at the facts, however, underlines the continuing strategic importance for the working class of an alliance with working farmers," he writes in *New International*. "Independent family farmers continue to account for the greatest portion of labor expended in agricultural production. In addition, the social and economic weight of these producers in the U.S. economy and the dominant role of U.S. agriculture in the world reinforce this political conclusion."

"In 1930," he notes, "one farm worker or farmer produced enough farm products for ten people; in 1982 one producer produced enough for seventy-eight."

Another article in the magazine is by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes, entitled, "The Fight for a Workers' and Farmers' Government in the United States."

"We are convinced," he writes, "that the working class in the United States — like everywhere else — cannot make a revolution without the farmers, let alone against them."

A revolutionary government in the United States could only be possible by building an alliance with the exploited farmers, not with those who make a living by exploiting wage earners and other farmers.

Barnes points to the example of the 1934 Teamsters strike in the Twin Cities as an example of how a revolutionary leadership works to build an alliance with working farmers and another group of exploited producers — the small, independent owner-operator truck drivers. Approaching owner-operators as fellow workers strengthens the struggles of working people.

The working class and exploited farmers have not only a common class enemy, but a common future as well. It is in the historic interests of both workers and working farmers to organize to expropriate their exploiters, to reorganize production, and to head toward a society of associated producers.

A link with working farmers represents by far the most powerful class alliance that the working class can forge with fellow producers in the fight for political power, hence the governmental slogan advanced in the *New International*.

* * *

Several readers were struck by a paragraph in George Buchanan's recent article on anti-immigrant attacks in Germany. Buchanan made the point that "racist, right-wing currents were nurtured within the bureaucratic caste that ruled" East Germany. The petty-bourgeois ruling stratum that drove working people out of political life in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union is a "breeding ground for fascist elements," he wrote.

Buchanan was drawing on material *Militant* readers might be interested in reviewing. Pathfinder publishes a series of writings by Leon Trotsky, a leader of the Russian revolution who organized a communist opposition to the course pursued by Joseph Stalin. Trotsky was exiled from the USSR, then assassinated by Stalin's agents.

In the *Writings of Leon Trotsky (1937-38)* an analysis of the various currents in the ruling bureaucratic stratum is presented. Trotsky takes the example of one of the regime's young diplomats, Butenko. Butenko escaped one of the many purges within the bureaucracy itself, fleeing to Italy. There he "issued a statement of a semifascist character," Trotsky writes.

Discontent of the masses "produces different currents even in the bureaucracy," he explains. "It is true that inside the bureaucracy the right tendencies are growing and even becoming fascist . . . If we take an isolated young bureaucrat — there is a totally fascist type: he has no tradition of the October Revolution. He is only disciplined, disciplined to shoot, disciplined to purge, and disciplined to proceed by trials — all for the glory of the fatherland. The personage of Butenko is very important in the ranks of the bureaucrats."

Truckers suspend strike against steel companies

This column is dedicated to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, or attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists

On October 2 USX, Bethlehem Steel, LTV, National Steel, and Inland Steel filed suit against GLASHA in federal court. They accused the truckers of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act by combining and conspiring to fix rates in the steel hauling industry.

"This is a joke," strike spokesperson Dale Davis responded. "First, we

strike in Colorado.

The one-day strike closed the Emerald mine in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, and the Kanawha mine near Montgomery, West Virginia. Both are owned by Cyprus Minerals Co.

One hundred and sixty union members have been on strike since May 13 at Cyprus's Empire mine in Craig, Colorado. Last August members of the Craig UMW local addressed meetings of miners at Emerald and Kanawha, informing them of the issues in their fight. The UMW contract allows coal miners 10 "memorial days" each year that can be used for such protest actions.

Coal companies guilty of dust sample tampering

Dozens of coal companies and individuals agreed to plead guilty to felony charges that they tampered with the federally mandated coal dust sampling program.

Coal dust causes black lung, a debilitating disease, and contributes to explosive conditions underground. Mine owners are supposed to submit samples to the Mine, Safety and Health Administration.

What began in 1989 as an investigation into a single violation ended up in charges being filed by the government against 33 coal companies and 43 individuals in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

One example of how the tampering operation worked was revealed by federal prosecutors. Harry White and Ronald Hill, employees of Triangle Research Inc., would call a mine to verify that no federal mine inspector had been present that day. Triangle would then send a coal sample on behalf of the coal company that had been taken somewhere other than a mine site.

Machinists local discusses Wichita, abortion rights

At the September meeting of Local 1759 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), Nell Wheeler reported on her participation in the August 24 pro-

choice rally in Wichita, Kansas.

She described Operation Rescue's attacks on a woman's right to choose abortion to unionists at the meeting, many of whom work at Dulles Airport near Washington, D.C. Mobilizations by such rightist organizations, if not effectively countered, could also attempt to push back strikes and other protests by workers. In Wichita, she noted, there is a large Boeing plant organized by the IAM. Wheeler explained that supporting the democratic right of women to choose abortion was a union issue.

After the meeting, attended by about 50 unionists, mostly men, sev-

eral members approached Wheeler to indicate that they were pro-choice and were glad to see the response to Operation Rescue. They made suggestions on organizations to contact for protests in the Washington, D.C., area and encouraged Wheeler to let the union know about future pro-choice activities.

Discussions on the job at the United Airlines kitchen were also overwhelmingly positive in support of abortion rights and in favor of answering these assaults by Operation Rescue.

Scott Ware from Chicago contributed to this week's column.

ON THE PICKET LINE

faced with steep takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves by the employers have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that, too.

Five of the largest steel companies in the United States, along with the federal government and the big-business media, have launched a major attack against striking steel haulers in the Great Lakes region.

The truckers, who own their own specialized rigs for hauling steel coils, organized into the Great Lakes Area Steel Haulers Association (GLASHA) September 7. On September 24 they went on strike, charging that lower payments and higher expenses were driving them into bankruptcy.

Originally scoffing at the action, the steel giants quickly changed their tune when truckers brought truck transportation of steel between the mills and auto plants throughout Michigan and Ohio to a virtual standstill.

are not independent businessmen as they claim. We are employees, according to the carriers' own statutes.

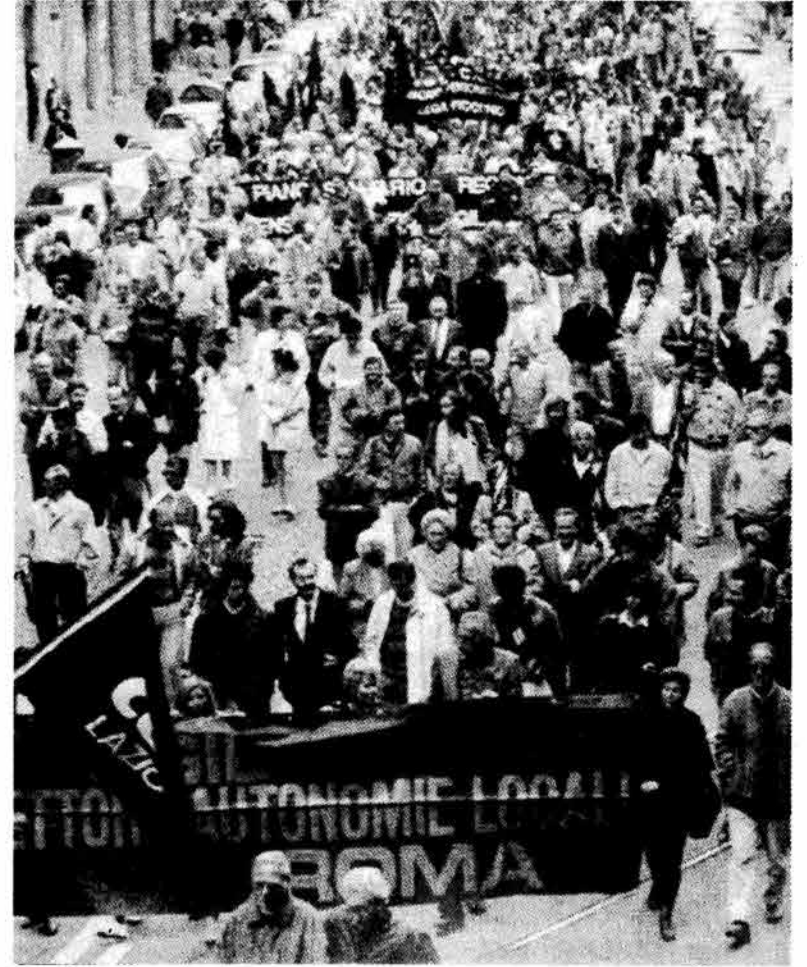
"Independent contractors can bargain for a contract. We are told, 'Sign this or hit the road.' We are not concerned with haulage rates at all. That is between the carriers and the mills. We are simply fighting for decent pay for the ones who do the work. In fact, it is the mills which fix the haulage rates, not us, and everyone knows it."

Federal Judge Rudy Lozano jumped into the fray on the companies' side when he issued a strike-breaking temporary restraining order against the truckers October 4. The order prohibited haulers from "conspiring, combining, or agreeing to withhold their equipment from plaintiffs . . . picketing . . . or in any other manner or by any means either directly or indirectly interfering with the operations of the plaintiffs or their customers."

Davis said the steel haulers are abiding by the order, "outrageous as it is. We have gone back to work pending the judge's decision on a permanent injunction. But we are not beaten yet. Our unity and morale are still high."

Coal miners stage one-day strike

Five hundred coal miners in Pennsylvania and West Virginia refused to work October 15 in support of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members on



Workers marched in Rome October 23 as more than 80 percent of Italy's work force joined a general strike. The four-hour stoppage was called to protest government's plans for austerity measures.

LETTERS

Admires Malcolm

I want to give some input on a subject I read about in the *Militant*, concerning my loved and profoundly admired revolutionary leader, Comrade Malcolm X. The Organizations responsible for the articles feel Malcolm will not be portrayed adequately in the movie Spike Lee is making. They believe the books by Pathfinder, and the movie, are a negative influence on his character, what he stood for and represented.

I can understand their viewpoint but must disagree with them. The main issues seem to be Malcolm X is a Black role model, and to address his early life of petty crime or being in prison would ruin his image.

What Malcolm X started out as is not important, it is what he evolved into that should be learned and studied. Malcolm X going to prison shows how great he was to put crime behind him forever, and continue to grow and broaden his scope.

Prison had a devastating influence on his life, and was an impetus in his decision to fight for all oppressed and exploited peoples, who face sub-human conditions. Malcolm X wanted people to recognize and understand the truth, he spent all his life fighting to expose the truth.

Why should any fact of his life be left out, changed around or lied about? The fact Malcolm X had a street life and went to prison does not detract from his greatness or his accolades, they are unequivocal. Nor does it diminish his stature, strong principles and determination he had, exhibited and adhered to. We

should not be ironic about Malcolm X's rectitude to suit our purposes!

Malcolm X is dead but his memory, spirit, determination, goals and achievements will live infinitely. Society, people and the system never tell things as they are. To change how Malcolm X lived, to add or omit any negative or positive influence he experienced, would make Malcolm X a creation of our expectations instead of the revolutionary leader he is!!

A prisoner
Eddyville, Kentucky

Labor party - I

The article by Joel Britton on Labor Party Advocates is quite valuable; but overlooks much of the value the *Militant* has been on this question in the past.

Years ago, the *Militant* predicted the quandary the tops of the union movement finds itself in now. Now those predictions are coming true; it is time to see the opportunity that exists and build on it. The bureaucrats, at their best, can only function as bureaucrats. The *Militant* can be a catalyst and a communication link between union and other forces now seeking independent political direction.

The OCAW resolution correctly sees the bipartisan nature of the problem and that it produces a political vacuum. If the vacuum is not filled by potentially revolutionary action; it will be filled by reaction.

Quite probably, the OCAW does not see unemployed, under-employed, and National Organization

for Women as natural allies. But, surely you see the political potential.

I hope the *Militant* is concerned to influence more than the 16.4% of workers in unions. I also hope you see the organic unity between them and the rest of their natural allies and the importance to them that you can be.

Jim Krahn
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Labor party - II

The article in the October 11, 1991, issue on the 'Labor Party Advocates' was very welcome.

A short paragraph describes this group as an "organizing committee for a labor party . . . run by a steering committee, members of which must be union officials." Indeed, a long-time OCAW official, Anthony Mazzocchi, played a leading role in getting the resolution adopted. Joel Britton also notes that the pressure for this action by the bureaucrats comes from above, not from the ranks below; from efforts to defend their narrow interests, not the interests of the class. Little else is presented as to who is active in 'LPA,' or what progress has been made in building the organization. Is there a steering committee? Who else is involved in leading this discussion?

The article also notes that according to Mazzocchi, a recent poll indicates that two-thirds of union members believe that the two parties care more about "big-business" than they do about working Americans, and further, that half of those polled

think it is time for a labor party. And Britton states that "(m)any working people are interested . . . in hearing about any discussion on the formation of a labor party." Yet, the article gives the impression that there is nothing for a serious union activist let alone a communist to get excited about in this discussion.

What seems to be missing in the article is some guide to action for union fighters given the current stage of this discussion, beyond "don't get excited, this isn't the real thing." What do we mean by a labor party, how do SWP candidates use the Labor Party slogan in their campaigns around the country? An article that took up the sort of discussions we're getting into would give a more rounded picture of our approach to this tactical question.

Tim Mailhot
New York, New York

Pro-choice rally

Enclosed is a flyer announcing a November 3rd organizing rally being put on by Freedom of Choice Action League (FOCAL). The October 4 *Militant* mentions the formation of our group. Since FOCAL's formation we have been busy working to be able to organize larger numbers for clinic defense. Our goal is also to educate the community to the threat posed by the whole agenda of the religious right, including but going beyond attacks on women's reproductive freedom. FOCAL welcomes the support of all individuals and groups who support democracy and women's rights. The attention

given by the *Militant* to the right wing threat in Wichita has been encouraging.

Patrick Eytchison
Wichita, Kansas

Prison conditions

I would like to try and draw some support for those of us who are locked in prison cells.

It seems that the Prison Officials here at the Iowa State Penitentiary are trying to keep us inmates from corresponding with people from the outside or from trying to save what little money we get from friends. They now say we have to pay to have someone placed on our visiting list and that they are going to start taking 20% from any money we receive from our family and friends starting December 1st.

They are also starting to take away small things such as: they no longer are going to issue sponges for us to clean our cells. If you are an inmate in lockup they give you \$7.70 and take 20% of it a month and we have to buy our own envelopes, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant and if we don't get some other support from friends we have to go without.

A prisoner
Ft. Madison, Iowa

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

W. Virginia rally backs steelworkers fighting Ravenswood Aluminum Co.

BY LINDA JOYCE

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — Seven buses from northeast Ohio arrived at the USWA Local 5668 union hall here to bring food, clothing, and financial contributions to the locked-out Ravenswood Aluminum workers.

The event is one of a number of solidarity weekends underway here. On October 26 members of the United Auto Workers Union, Teamsters, and Steelworkers will travel from Detroit.

Dave Eckendorf, chair of the grievance committee for USWA Local 735 in Bedford, Ohio, arrived on one of the packed buses. "We came down to show our support for the people of Ravenswood. Any time scabs can walk in and take our jobs, that's economically murdering the people who had these jobs. It's not right."

Eckendorf was referring to the fact that Ravenswood has kept the aluminum plant running since last winter with a scab work force.

The 1,700 Ravenswood Aluminum workers have been locked out since Nov. 1, 1990. Over the past year, only 14 union members have crossed the picketline. Union officials have taken the dispute to court, charging the company with unfair labor practices. The Steelworkers' officialdom is banking on the courts upholding a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruling in favor of the union that could lead to reinstating the workers with back pay.

Union members are digging in for the long haul. Local 5668 president Dan Stidham said at the weekend solidarity



Militant/Linda Joyce

Unionists from Ohio at Ravenswood rally in support of locked-out Steelworkers

rally, "As long as we've got this kind of support, we're going to stick with it and we'll win in the long run." The event was held on the grounds of the union hall, now called "Fort Unity."

Frank Valenta, president of District 28 of the USWA, presented the local with a check for \$26,206.49. He pledged more money, people, and support in the future.

A contingent of workers from USWA Local 7735 from the Machine and Mould

company in Akron, Ohio, have been out on strike for two years. They also came to show their support. "But it also gets our spirits up," one said. "We need it."

Students from campuses in Indiana, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., all members of Frontlash, an AFL-CIO youth affiliate, participated in the rally.

"Students need to know what's going on with labor to understand what they will be faced with," said Tracy Levine from the

University of Maryland. Her fellow student, Brian Adkins, added, "Students need to be a part of labor solidarity too."

A young steelworker from Cleveland who came to the rally thought it was important to lend solidarity but wanted to discuss how the fight could be won. Union officials have been urging reliance on the judicial process to win the strike.

On the picketline, many locked-out RAC workers expressed their hope in the court proceedings, which are dragging on into December and beyond. Some said they were confident the courts would rule in their favor.

Others disagreed. "We need to mobilize thousands down here at the gates," said one picketer. Another thought that the workers should buy the plant since he felt the company would go bankrupt rather than reinstate the union members.

Still another picketer thought that the NLRB rulings were taking entirely too long compared to the rapid way the company got the courts to slap injunctions against the strike. Long-standing court injunctions bar more than four workers from congregating together near the plant. The NLRB complaints were issued in July, but the unionists had to wait until October for the court proceedings to begin.

After the rally, the buses and several cars and trucks drove to the plant, arriving at the 4:00 p.m. shift change. Guards quickly shut the gates as the 350 unionists chanted and shouted slogans at the scabs. Many tried to storm the gates. State police arrived just as the steelworkers began boarding the buses to go back to the Cleveland area.

Excel deals blow to Iowa packinghouse workers

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

OTTUMWA, Iowa — Excel Corporation defeated United Food and Commercial Workers Local 230 in a fight over a new contract at the company's pork packinghouse here. Excel is owned by food conglomerate Cargill.

After the expiration of the previous two-year pact October 7, Local 230 members voted to strike. They went back to work on a day-to-day basis while the local negotiating committee attempted to bargain with Excel.

When safety conditions deteriorated in the plant with no contract in effect, 350 workers refused to work in unsafe conditions. The company suspended them.

The second contract proposal from the company, following the fight over safety, guaranteed a schedule of Monday through Friday instead of the workweek of Tuesday through Saturday sought by Excel.

Excel continued to demand the introduction of sizable insurance copayments, increased drug prescription costs, a wage increase of \$1 an hour over the course of a 46-month contract, and other concessions. This contract was ratified October 13. Most union members considered the work schedule the major issue around which they could fight.

The pact was approved by a vote of 620-14, according to Local 230 official Glenn Matters. The agreement included the return of all suspended workers to their jobs and a \$300 signing bonus for everyone, including the 130 probationary employees.

But the contract presented by Excel to Local 230 officials the following week gutted some of these provisions. Excel's version guaranteed only 32 hours work Monday through Friday, allowing the company the possibility of not scheduling work on Monday and adding Saturday hours. The proposed contract also removed probationary workers from the group entitled to the signing bonus.

When Local 230 president T.J. Lauritsen

entered the plant October 21 to discuss the discrepancies with management, company officials told him he was not welcome in the plant. Workers walked off the job and voted against ratification of the Excel version of the contract by vote of 647-2. They voted 645-3 to strike, said local spokesperson Carl Orman.

On the picket line that afternoon, workers expressed their outrage at Excel and their willingness to fight.

"If we don't fight, they'll walk right over us and we'll be in the dirt," explained kill floor worker Becky Woten, a strike captain.

Many workers thought the strike action was overdue. "It's about time," said loin boning worker Tim O'Leary. "We should have all been out" when the company suspended hundreds of unionists, he said.

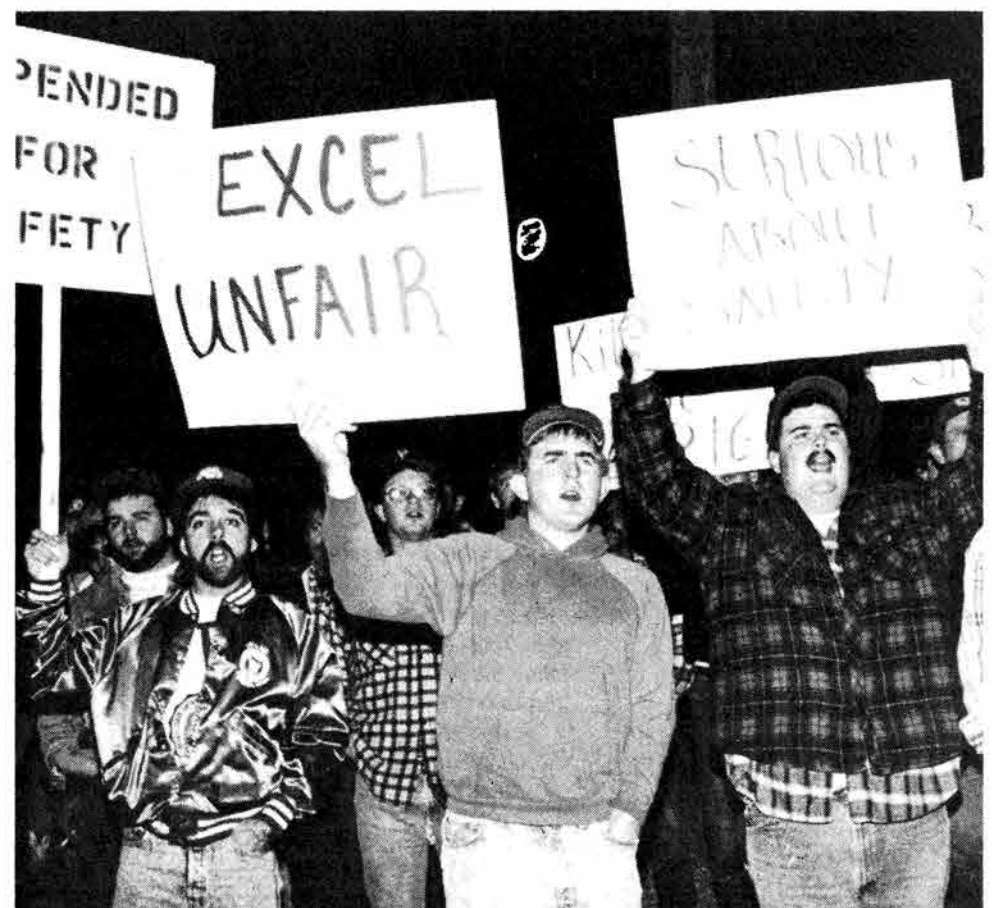
Cut floor worker Ray Taylor emphasized, "We can't take any more of their double talk. We're not going to agree to what we didn't sign."

But the UFCW international leadership refused to sanction the strike, ordering the pickets removed and the unionists back to work. Excel had begun legal action against the union, claiming that the strike action violated their version of the newly ratified contract.

A membership meeting was held the following day, attended by two UFCW international representatives from the union's Region 13 office in Minneapolis. A fax from the international officialdom was read, calling on the strikers to end the fight. With no recommendation from the local executive board, the membership voted 640-35 to comply, according to executive board member and ham bone skinner Pat Harville.

The next morning, explained Harville, 400 workers marched to the plant to begin work, only to be told by management that all were suspended.

The UFCW international office then proposed that Excel's version of the contract be ratified, that the local drop an unfair labor practice charge filed for Excel's substitution



Jim Hamman

Packinghouse workers protest Excel's suspension of union members in early October

of contract language, and that the workers ask the company to take them back on this basis.

Harville said "the international negotiated" with Excel and the company "never talked to" the local's negotiation committee. The capitulation plan came in a "fax from the international."

At the membership meeting October 24, the executive board made no recommendation on the surrender. Pressed for some guid-

ance by the rank and file, the executive board convened and voted 8-3 for the plan, then reported the vote to the membership, according to Harville. The unionists then voted in a secret ballot 432-107 to accept the plan.

Harville said he voted no. "We would have been better off if we had held out against the company to get the other contract back."

Mitchel Rosenberg is a member of UFCW Local 1149 and works at the IBP packinghouse in Perry, Iowa.